



THE GUARDIAN

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Victims trampled after wall collapses • Rival fans allowed to mix • Final goes ahead despite battle

Brussels counts soccer riot dead

At least 36 killed in savage fighting



Dead and injured fans shown amid the debris of disaster

From Derek Brown, Charles Burgess, and Alex Scott in Brussels

Thirty-six football fans were reported dead last night, and at least 100 injured, after savage violence before the start of the European Cup Final between Liverpool and Juventus.

The Heysel stadium in a northern suburb of Brussels became a battleground, as fans fought each other and the riot police. Most victims were trampled to death when a wall around the football pitch collapsed during a vain and desperate rush to find safety.

Brussels police last night confirmed 24 deaths and unofficially said the toll was at least 36. Guardian reporter, Charles Burgess, counted 28 bodies in a row in the lee of the stand where the violence erupted.

"They were almost lying on top of each other, some were covered in blankets; others in black and white Juventus flags," he said. The victims were British, Italian, and Belgian, police said.

An emergency number has been issued for those seeking information: 010 322 5179611.

The violence resulted from a combination of Liverpool fans' aggression and an astonishing slip-up by the UEFA authorities in allowing rival supporters to mingle in the same section of terracing.

About half an hour before the scheduled start, when the 60,000-capacity stadium was almost full, the Liverpool fans evidently decided to expand the territory they were occupying behind one goal.

They hurled stones, cans, and other missiles at the Juventus supporters, who were packed away in the stands behind the pitch, or the back of the terrace.

Then a phalanx of police arrived, with batons flailing, and confusion turned into hysteria.

A Liverpool fan, John Johnson, from Nottingham, was in the ground's Z section, where the battle started. "All we could see were flares in the air. There was Liverpool and Juventus fans together."

Fighting broke out and the police waded in. They were hitting the first people they could find," he said.

"The next thing, we were all carried down by the crowd. I saw two people die just near me. A fence collapsed. People were trying to get out, and the police were still hitting them."

Paul Fry, aged 28 from Stevenage, was also in Z section throughout the violence.

There were Liverpool fans in there by right, but then they charged the Juventus fans. There was no segregation. If there had been, I don't think this would have happened."

"Then the Liverpool fans in Section X, next door, fired flares, and they charged too. I saw two people trampled to death in front of me. I was trying to get up to the back where it was safer."

"The police did not help, even though the fault was Liverpool's, because they continued to wield their batons on everyone, English or Italian. They helped spread the panic."

A double line of mounted police drew up in front of the terrace where the fans died.

Frank Keating on another tragedy for soccer, page 24; picture, back page

Watchful lines of police, most in full riot gear, herded the supporters in to separate sections.

An hour after the scheduled start of the match, UEFA officials, who went into emergency mode, announced that the match would go ahead.

Then, at 8.38, the Liverpool team came out onto the field, led by the Captain, Phil Neal. Juventus and the match kicked off at 8.42pm — almost one-and-a-half-hours late. Neal earlier appealed for order over the public address system, as sporadic rioting continued.

They evidently feared that if 60,000 disappointed and in many cases hysterical fans were sent from the ground without a match, there would be mayhem in Brussels.

As it was, Brussels people

JOE FAGAN, the Liverpool manager, is standing down after only two years in the job. His decision, before last night's deaths, was made because he was "too old and too tired" to carry on.

Report, page 24

When I heard rumours of lax implementation, I telephoned UEFA, urging them to ensure that all rules and regulations were adhered to," he said. "I have had no reply, but I expect UEFA to carry out a vigorous, urgent and searching investigation, since it appears that segregation was not adequate."

Mr Macfarlane said that he had expected trouble at the match, but nothing on the appalling and tragic scale of what took place.

"This is the most tragic night for European football. My deepest sympathies and feelings go to those with friends and relatives at the match," he said.

were already counting the cost of a day of harassment, sporadic violence, and unruly death in the city centre.

Liverpool fans are suspected of having carried out a £125,000 robbery at a jeweller's shop in the centre of Brussels. Several youths wearing Liverpool scarves and rosettes entered the shop and snatched jewellery from behind counters, police said.

Witnesses were able to identify two of the thieves positively, they added, while a further three got away without being seen. The raid took place at lunch-time yesterday, while the Belgian forces were fully stretched coping with the minimum of 74,000 fans from Liverpool and Juventus in Brussels for the match.

A 22-year-old British supporter was also badly wounded after a knife attack by a Juventus fan who is to appear in court this morning.

Earlier, 50 Liverpool supporters are believed to have been involved in stealing £1,000 worth of clothing from a shop. Police report that the group of youths entered the shop, and while some surrounded the assistant, they helped themselves to merchandise.

The Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, said that after watching the scenes on television, she shared in the universal horror. Those responsible had brought shame and disgrace on their country, she said.

The sports minister, Mr Neil Macfarlane, said last night that he had telephoned UEFA last Thursday, after receiving reports that security measures for the match might not be up to scratch. He wrote to the relevant Belgian ministers three weeks ago, urging them to make sure that all possible safeguards against trouble between the rival fans were implemented.

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COMMENT

David Lacey in Brussels

PROFESSIONAL football as a spectator sport lay mortally wounded in Brussels last night. The European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus, a game which promised to represent modern soccer at its best, succumbed to the other modern phenomenon, crowd violence, and this time suffered the full tragic consequences.

Coming so soon after the Bradford disaster, with 23 dead, and the incident in Mexico City this week when 10 people were crushed to death as the crowd struggled to force their way into the Olympic Stadium for the National Cup final, last night's scenes offered the grimmest reminders that the world's most popular sport is in grave peril.

The usual reasons and excuses will be offered. The trouble started with a minority of Liverpool fans throwing missiles towards Juventus supporters and drifting towards their part of the terraces.

The police, who seemed to have learned nothing from the excellent way their Dutch counterparts handled the Everton supporters in Rotterdam for the Cup-winners Cup final a fortnight ago, weighed in with riot shields and batons cracking any head they came across.

This provoked a violent reaction from the Liverpool fans and it was when the police, heavily outnumbered, lost control of the situation for a minute or two that panic set in among the Juventus supporters who thought they were about to be attacked.

As they surged towards the narrow entrance to the arena, first crush barriers and then the surrounding wall gave way and those in front of were trampled.

When the authorities held their inquiry they will need to ask about crowd segregation and the strength of the barriers that were meant to separate the fans.

However, to judge by the empty and broken bottles in the centre of Brussels and on the lawns outside the stadium, drink was again at the heart of the problem.

While it is premature to lay the blame wholly at the door of the Liverpool supporters it must be said that before the disturbances there had been little, if any, sign of trouble on the terraces occupied by the Juventus fans.

It is the first time in 21 years of competition that Liverpool has been involved in serious violence.

Last act in season of gloom

By David Rose

THE events last night came 18 days after 33 people died in a fire at Bradford City's stadium at Valley Parade. On the same day a fan was killed during trouble between rival supporters at the Birmingham City-Leeds United game.

The Bradford tragedy was followed by the setting up of a judicial inquiry under Mr Justice Popplewell, acting on the wishes of the Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan. The inquiry may also examine the background to the Birmingham death.

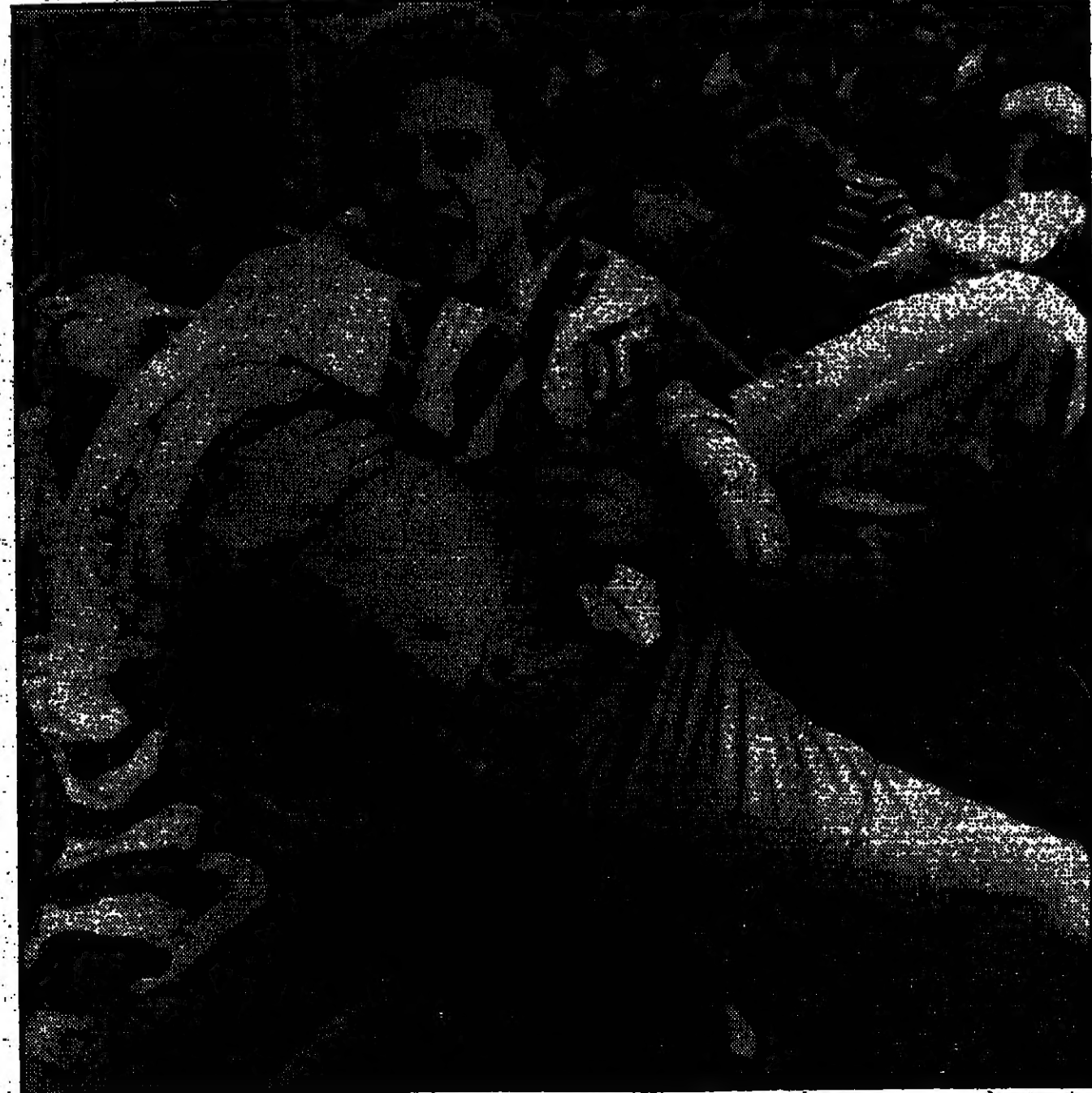
Last night's disaster follows a British football season marred by hooliganism which has led to the direct involvement of Mrs Thatcher and the Home Secretary, and to great public concern.

After a riot by Millwall fans at Luton, Mrs Thatcher called representatives of the Football League and Football Association to a meeting at Downing Street, from which the key proposal to emerge was a ban on drink at some grounds next season.

There have been serious incidents involving supporters of Chelsea, whose chairman, Mr Ken Bates, was prevented by Greater London Council from erecting an electric fence around the Stamford Bridge pitch.

The stiffening attitude to football violence was reflected last week when 24 Cambridge United supporters were jailed for attacking Chelsea fans. The ringleader Chelsea fan, was sentenced to five years.

Last night a riot has marred a European Cup final. In 1975 Leeds supporters ripped out seats at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris and used them as missiles.



An injured fan is carried to safety after the stand wall collapsed and the crowd trampled others during the panic. Even after the fighting had subsided, there was appalling confusion. Fans continued to chant, apparently unaware of the carnage.

Coach crash driver 'seemed ill'

By Martin Wainwright

French police are sifting witness accounts which suggest that fatigue or sudden illness affected the driver of a coach which crashed in Provence yesterday, killing seven of a British school party on board.

Three children, three teachers, and the driver died. Three passengers are critically ill in hospital and all 39 others on the coach, which turned over twice and landed on its roof, were hurt. Ten were expected to leave hospital after treatment for minor injuries and shock.

The coach was taking a mixed party from Beaumont and Verulam schools in St Albans, Hertfordshire, on an eight-day adventure holiday. It

left the road at an accident blackspot near the village of Lédignan, between Ales and Montpellier. Reports from the local gendarmerie suggested that the speedometer had been smashed registering 75mph.

Several passengers told police and hospital staff at Nîmes, Ales, and Montpellier that the driver had appeared to have a glazed look or to be ill. A group of teachers had run up the coach gangway to try to take control but the bus had spun off the road and overturned.

No other vehicles were involved in the accident which happened on a winding stretch of the Route Nationale just before noon.

Three helicopters and 20 am-

bulances arrived to find children trying to crawl out of the coach's shattered windows. The roof of the vehicle, which had been hired from a British company, was mangled and the boot smashed open, with luggage flying clear.

The injured teachers include Mr Keith Rowley, aged 23, an England indoor hockey international, who has a fractured spine.

The British consul-general in Marseilles, Mr David Gladstone, said that the names of the dead would not be released until their next-of-kin had been informed.

The children, aged between 12 and 18, were travelling from the Ardèche, where they had been canoeing, to a

Turn to back page, col. 1

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gemayel shelled

PRESIDENT Amin Gemayel travelled to Damascus yesterday for talks with President Assad on "saving" Lebanon. Shortly before leaving, President Gemayel narrowly escaped when his palace was hit by shells and missiles. Report and other Middle East developments, page 5.

Falklands 'threat'

A NEW Falklands task force is threatening the South Atlantic wildlife chain. John Eard flies over it, page 4.

Tax protests

PROTESTS and scepticism have greeted President Reagan's proposals for tax changes. Report, page 6; Leader comment, page 12; Plan details, page 20.



"Quite frankly, would you risk losing £15 million to someone who arrived in a C5?"

In the black

BRITAIN'S balance of payments went back in the black last month as trade in oil resumed its normal pattern after the miners' strike. Page 18.

Tamil visas

THE Government yesterday announced new regulations requiring Tamils to obtain an entry visa before travelling to Britain. Report, back page; Sri Lanka 'summit' on separatists, page 7.

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The weather

DRY, Warm, Sunny and Details back page

THE GUARDIAN IN EUROPE			
Austria	26 pps	Green	100 pps
Belgium	9.00 pps	Italy	3.25 pps
Denmark	9.00 pps	Spain	2.00 pps
France	8.00 pps	Switzerland	170 pps
Germany	3.50 pps		

'Equal misery' move unlikely
after human rights ruling

Fears ebb over tougher curb on immigrants

By Malcolm Deen

Fears that immigration could be made more restrictive after the judgement of the European Court of Human Rights on Tuesday began to fade yesterday as immigrant groups took a closer look at the options facing the Home Office. The court found the British immigration rules breached the European Convention on Human Rights because of the stricter regulations applying to a woman who wants to bring in a foreign husband compared with a woman who wants to bring in a foreign wife.

As it was the inequality of treatment which the court found unlawful, not the restrictions themselves, some immigrant groups were worried that the Home Office would apply the stricter restrictions to men so that, in the words of one MP, "equal misery" was shared.

The more this option was studied, the less likely it seemed. Three separate laws provide foreign wives with a statutory right of admission to the UK. Large numbers of wives come from the white Commonwealth or the US, and the Government has no wish to exclude them. Several MPs would be directly involved, among them David Owen and Tony Benn, both of whom are married to Americans, and Jonathan Aitken, the Conservative MP, who has a Swiss wife.

Of the three laws which provide foreign wives with a statutory right of admission only two could be repealed. The

1971 Immigration Act protects the right of someone settled here before January 1, 1973, to be joined by his wife and children. Under the 1981 Nationality Act, women from the Commonwealth who were married to a British citizen before January 1, 1983, have a statutory right of entry. It is under these two laws that Asian wives, who are admitted each year, are permitted to settle. Some 6,570 were admitted last year.

Both these laws could be repealed but not the EEC law, which allows any EEC citizen resident in a member state to be joined by his wife. Repealing the first two laws would stop Australian, New Zealand and Canadian wives from coming to Britain but not French, German or Italian.

Ms Fiona McGart, general secretary of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, said yesterday that any attempt to extend the restrictions to foreign wives would create "an administrative nightmare."

She said that there was only one honourable course for the Government "and that is to end the restrictions on the 3,500 foreign husbands who are waiting to join their wives in Britain."

Ms McGart wrote to the Home Office requesting it rescind any order on a foreign husband, who is about to be deported from the UK and urging the Government to change the rules as quickly as possible.

Immigration ruling delays deportation

By Aileen Ballantyne

An attempt to deport a Portuguese whose wife has right of residency in Britain was halted yesterday after the European Court of Human Rights ruling that the immigration laws are sexist.

Mr Jose Rodriguez, aged 29, was appealing against a deportation order. The adjudicator, Mr Clem Richards, stopped the proceedings until the European court's decision could be clarified.

Mr Richards, who was hearing the appeal at Thanet House, the Strand, London, said the case would be restored to the list as soon as they knew what was going on. "The only sensible thing was to wait for the written judgment," he said.

Mr Rodriguez and his wife Anabela married in 1982, and have a son Mrs Rodriguez said after the hearing yesterday that she came to Britain with her parents at the age of nine. She had known her husband since childhood and they became engaged at the age of 16 after meeting in Portugal. She has tried to live there with him, she said, but could not

adjust to the different lifestyle after living in Britain for so long.

Mrs Rodriguez works as a hotel chambermaid and Mr Rodriguez, who cannot obtain a work permit until he is legally settled here, looks after their child at home.

Under the present law, men who are permanently settled here have the right to bring in their wives from abroad, but women in exactly the same position can not live in Britain with a foreign husband.

After the hearing, lawyers acting for Mr and Mrs Rodriguez warned that in cases such as this, where a family were separated by deportation ordered by the Home Office in breach of a European Court ruling, the European Court would be likely to award substantial damages.

Miss Jenny Sheppard, Mr Rodriguez's solicitor, said that deportation was "a drastic measure." It would be most unfair if he was deported under the old rules which would prevent him from coming back when the rules were likely to change in the next few months.

Mother tells of youth's time in punishment cell

By Jean Stead

The mother of Angus Boyd, aged 17, who was found dead in his cell at a "short, sharp shock" detention centre on February 17, told an inquiry at Alton yesterday that he had been kept in a segregated punishment cell since going there last December.

Mrs Jean Boyd, aged 40, an office cleaner from Largs, said her son had refused to shave his beard at Glenochil detention centre. She had told him before he was sent to prison that she liked his beard.

A prison officer, Mr Peter Machin, who found Boyd's body, said that in his four years at Glenochil he had known an inmate to be detained so long in the punishment cells before he was told it was because Boyd was not conforming.

Mrs Boyd said that when she visited her son on January 23 he seemed demented. He told her he was going to fake a heart attack and die, but would be born again. She asked in vain to see the prison governor so that her son could be sent to the prison hospital. A prison doctor, Dr Brian Stewart, said that Boyd had

seemed normal when he examined him as a new inmate in December. But when he examined him again a month later he had been concerned at his condition.

On January 16 he diagnosed him as a possible suicide risk, and recommended that he should see a psychiatrist and be put under strict supervision, with observation every 15 minutes. Boyd had told him he was going to die of a heart attack.

Prison officers said in evidence that Boyd had been confined to a cell in the segregated area as a disciplinary measure. Up to his death he was subject to normal observation by prison officers once an hour.

Detective Constable William Whyte, Stirling CID, who was called to the prison when Boyd's body was found in the middle of the night, said that the youth was lying on the floor wearing only pyjama trousers. A book on witchcraft was among Boyd's possessions. The court was told by forensic experts that though the cell was only 8 ft long by 7 ft 6 in high, it was high enough for Boyd to have hanged himself.

The inquiry continues today. Kenneth Clarke, the health minister, Conservative MP, Mr Richard Hickmet, said last night: "Some consultants may be running artificially long lists to persuade patients to have operations performed privately. This is not a unique allegation. There is considerable concern that this is happening, and it has got to be investigated. I shall be asking Mr Clarke what evidence there is of the abuses reported by Mr Mason, and what investigations can be carried out."

Tamil mother flees wedge of terror

By Paul Keel

A YOUNG Tamil mother who fled from Sri Lanka with her two children described yesterday the pressures which led her to seek refuge and her fears about being sent back.

The young woman, one of the estimated 1,500 Tamils to have arrived since the latest outbreak of violence, said she decided to leave her Tricoloured home in the island's eastern province after threats from the army. She is staying with friends in South London.

She claims that the army accused her of having harboured members of the Tigers, the Tamil separatist

guerrilla group, and that she could be forced to sign a confession if she did not insure on the Tigers' movements in the neighbourhood.

The woman, who did not want to be identified, insisted yesterday that she had no contact with the Tigers. She said involvement in terrorist activities was unthinkable for her and for her husband, who is employed in the government services.

She said that Tamils in parts of Sri Lanka where there was sympathy for the aims of the separatists faced difficulties in trying to maintain a neutral attitude.

You are accused by your neighbours of betraying the

Tamil cause, and you are suspected by the army of helping the Tigers simply because you are a Tamil," she said.

She and her friends had destroyed their family photograph albums. "If you don't the army remove all the pictures of the young men in your family and then say they are terrorists," she said.

Three of her cousins had been arrested by the security forces and one had been tortured to death, she claimed.

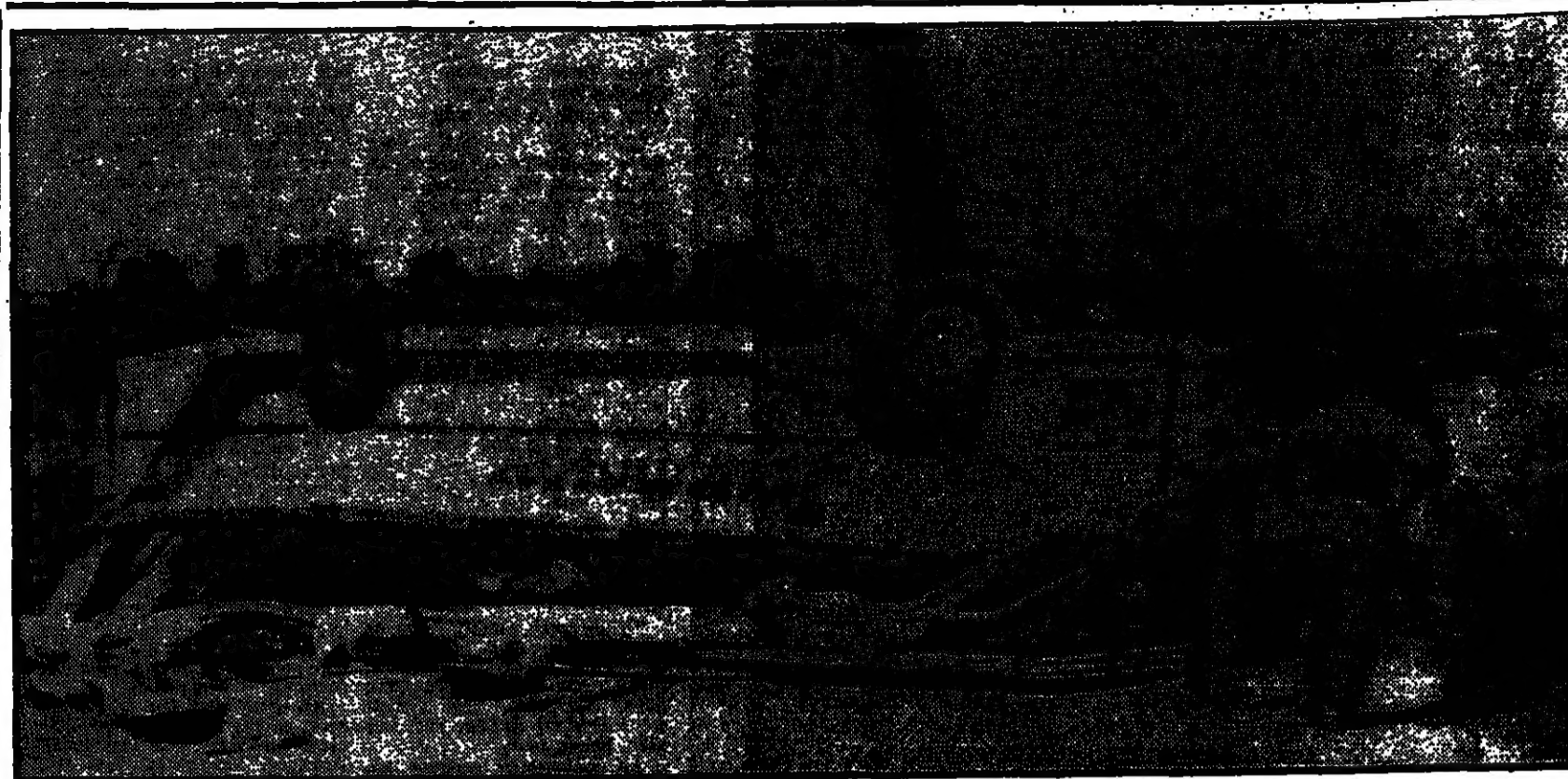
Her flight from Sri Lanka earlier this month began with a bus journey from Trincomalee to the capital, Colombo, which was interrupted twice for searches.

The first check was conducted by the army and the second a "gang of thugs" who took three Tamil youths off the bus and began beating them. She said the three boys had been imprisoned enough to admit they were trying to leave Sri Lanka. She had merely said she was visiting friends in Colombo.

At the airport in Colombo, where her friends in Britain had arranged tickets, she was able to board her flight without trouble. Other Tamils who did not have such advance arrangements were left arguing and pleading with officials as they tried to buy tickets for Western destinations.

At Heathrow, she was held for only a brief period as the reasons for her flight, her circumstances at home and her accommodation arrangements in Britain were questioned. Now she is awaiting a summons from immigration officials for a more lengthy interview about her intentions.

Her wish is that she and her children will be granted refugee status. Her claim will be based on the intolerable situation as she regards it, that would await her in Sri Lanka where she would be caught between the security forces' counter-insurgency drive and the pressure to support Tamil separatism.



The bus in which at least seven people died at an accident black spot in Provence yesterday during a school trip from St Albans, Hertfordshire. Three passengers are critically ill and all 39 others were hurt. Ten were expected to leave hospital after treatment for minor injuries and shock.

NEWS IN BRIEF

EEC holds fire on coal decision

A DECISION on phasing out subsidies to the European coal industry was put off by the EEC without serious discussion of the controversial proposal at the commission's meeting yesterday in Brussels.

An informed source said that the matter would need considerable debate, given the importance and political sensitivity of the subject. A decision is expected when the commission meets next Wednesday. Walkout halts Tyne Metro

Cable viewers tuned in

SIXTEEN per cent of all households equipped with cable television watch it for more than nine hours a day, according to an independent survey published yesterday. Most watched for more than four hours.

The survey shows that cable accounts for up to 28 per cent of viewing time on Sundays, and nearly 20 per cent during the week.

Guardian writer wins award

JOHN CARVEL, of the Guardian, has been named Local Government Journalist of the Year in a new set of awards organised by Local Government Information Services, a PR consultancy for local authorities. He won the award and £250 for an exclusive story about Cabinet divisions on scrapping elections of the metropolitan authorities which led to a revolt by Government peers last year.

OBITUARY

Roy Plomley

Roy Plomley, the devisor and presenter for more than 40 years of Desert Island Discs on BBC radio has died, aged 71. Dennis Barker, back page

Government has spent £2.9m on 'controversial' publicity

By John Carvel

The Government has spent £2.9 million on 11 politically controversial publicity and advertising campaigns since coming to power in 1979, it was disclosed yesterday.

This compares with only six potentially-sensitive campaigns with an identified cost of £2.2 million under the leadership of Mr Heath, Mr Wilson and Mr Callaghan from 1970 to 1979.

The £2.9 million does not include the spending on television advertising which accompanied the privatisation of British Telecom and other state share flotations.

The largest campaign under Mrs Thatcher has been £2.3 million spent on publicity to promote council tenants' rights to buy their homes.

The information, placed in the House of Commons library by the Prime Minister, came in response to a parliamentary question by the shadow environment secretary, Dr John Cunningham, about a Cabinet Office setting out government campaigns on publicity and advertising.

"Public funds may not, however, be used to finance publicity for party political purposes: this rule governs not only decisions about what is or is not to be published but also to content, style, and distribution of what is published."

The paper explained that the conventions are that "subject matter should be relevant to government responsibilities," that "content, tone and presentation should not be party political," that "distribution of unsolicited material should be carefully controlled," and that "costs should be justifiable."

Although it maintained that these conventions have never been broken, it went on to list examples of "publicity in potentially politically controversial areas."

One of these, the Switch Off campaign during the miners' strike at the start of 1974, was acceptable "because it bore directly on maintaining the life of the community in a national emergency."

The list of sensitive campaigns under Mrs Thatcher's premiership includes publicity on the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill (1983/4), bus policy (1984), abolition of the GLC and metropolitan counties (1985), the defence policy (continuing), the nurses pay offer 1982 and the rate-capping legislation (1984).

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Tourism jobs boom forecast

By Michael Smith

Industrial Editor

BETWEEN 200,000 and 400,000 jobs could be created in Britain's expanding tourist industry by 1990, a report has promised.

The report, prepared for the British Tourist Authority, forecasts the creation of at least 200,000 jobs over the next five years. But it believes the figure will soar to 400,000 by 1990 if the tourist industry receives stimulus and assistance.

Mr Duncan Black, chairman of the BTA, said the figures reflected the importance of the industry to the economy as a whole.

The Government recently reduced the level of support for the BTA and other tourist authorities, but Mr Black said the Government should assist the industry.

According to the BTA report, produced by the economist, Mr James Morrell, tourism would be needed to help lift the job creation figure to 400,000 by 1990.

Mr Morrell lists factors like a lower exchange rate, the enlargement of tourist promotion, and public sector investment in roads, airports, and docks, as vital to expansion.

At present slightly under 1.5 million people are employed directly or indirectly in the British tourist industry, and the addition of a further 200,000 is based on growth in tourists' spending over the past four years.

Greater stimulus and a repeat of the more rapid growth experienced over the past two years could raise the figure to 400,000.

30,000 more suffer genital diseases

By Andrew Veitch

Medical Correspondent

THE number of new patients treated for sexually-transmitted and other genital diseases has risen by nearly 30,000 to well over half a million, according to a Department of Health figures released yesterday.

Herpes is the most rapidly-spreading venereal disease: the number of women suffering for the first time has increased by 31 per cent, and the number of men by 14 per cent to bring the total of new patients to 16,594.

The number of new patients treated at national Health Service clinics was up by nearly 6 per cent to 547,497 in 1983 — the latest figure available.

Most of the increase was due to non-specific infections. New cases of syphilis and gonorrhoea fell respectively by 6 per cent to 3,000 and 7 per cent to 48,000.

Some 10 times more men than women contracted syphilis. For all types of VD, the number of new male cases increased by 4 per cent, and female cases by 6 per cent.

People who pass on sexually-transmitted diseases should not be made criminally liable, Dr John Dawson of the British Medical Association said yesterday.

The present system of voluntary reporting and tracing of victims who may have acquired such diseases was "probably working reasonably well," Dr Dawson told members of the

British Academy of Forensic Sciences in London.

Dr Dawson referred to the early-day motion proposed by Dr Dawson of the Conservative MP for Macclesfield, Mr Nicholas Winterton.

Anyone taking part in sexual intercourse "having been suffering from such disease or been in contact with another person suffering from a sexually-transmitted disease, would be guilty of a punishable criminal offence unless that person's partner was first made aware of these facts."

Statistical Bulletin No 3/85: New cases of sexually-transmitted diseases. Price £1 from DES Information Division, 100, Whitehall, London SW1A 2BQ. Government Buildings, Horsepool Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex.

Briton held by Nigerians 'planning fast to death'

By Patrick Keatley

Diplomatic Correspondent

THE wife of a British businessman arrested in Nigeria last September has heard that her husband, Andrew Covey, has gone on hunger strike and expects to fast to his death.

He is held, in company with 14 convicted criminals, in a tiny cell at Kiri Kiri maximum security prison.

The Foreign Office confirmed last night that the Tory MP for Hastings, Mr Andrew Hunter, has demanded urgent action at the highest level to save the life of his constituent.

Earlier charges against Mr Covey, aged 37, alleged extortion of state funds, were all dismissed when his case finally came to court on March 16. The Nigerian judge set him free but he was immediately arrested under a military decree which permits indefinite detention.

Mr Hunter and other friends of the family in Hastings are convinced that Mr Covey is the innocent victim of a hostage-taking strategy linked to the Dikko case.

The former Nigerian minister, Umaru Dikko, was found unconscious from drug injections, in a packing case at Stansted Airport last July, ready for despatch to Lagos where he is wanted to face corruption charges. He is still in this country.

Hugo label sparkles

By Donald Winterson

Art Sales Correspondent

A BOTTLE of Monton Rothschild 1946 with a label by Jean Hugo was sold for £1,540 at Sotheby's yesterday.

The year was not one of Monton Rothschild's best vintage years and the wine itself is worth perhaps about £50.

The chateau has commissioned a special label each year since the second world war from a distinguished artist. The labels have become collectors' pieces and interest has been stimulated by an exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Hugo's label depicts a dove and a man ploughing. It was to celebrate the end of the war.

At Phillips in London, the earliest label used by Jack Hobbs when he surpassed W.G. Grace's record of runs was sold for £1,320. Hobbs signed the bat and inscribed it "I used this bat in the Surrey v Middlesex match at Kennington Oval on August 9, 1930, when I passed W.G. Grace's aggregate record of 54,296." Hobbs surpassed Grace's record of 125 centuries in 1925.

Welfare State's structure defective, says Meacher

The structure of the Welfare State was condemned as defective yesterday by Labour's social services spokesman, Mr Michael Meacher. In a hint of things to come — probably at Labour's party conference in the autumn — he cited the fact that eight million people rely on supplementary benefit at the main strategic failing of the social security system.

His plans for revitalising the system by replacing "degrading" supplementary benefits with basic allowances given as of right were put forward in Labour green paper last month without the approval of the party's national executive committee.

Yesterday, he repeated his call for an end to means-tested supplementary benefit, a comprehensive allowance for the physically and mentally disabled, and recognition of the numbers of working women who no longer depended on their husbands.

Mr Meacher's alternative, or something very like it, is thought likely to be presented, with NEC approval, to the party conference.

Mr Meacher said that the

Council expels Sinn Fein members

From Paul Johnson

In Belfast

Sinn Fein may go to court in an effort to have the enforced exclusion of two of its councillors from a Northern Ireland local authority declared illegal.

The pair were led from Craigavon council chamber yesterday by police after Unionists voted in favour of a motion to have them ejected from the inaugural meeting.

This is the latest in a series of rows which will afflict local authorities in Northern Ireland over the next few weeks as they try to come to terms for the first time with substantial Sinn Fein representation.

Last night there were suggestions that the Unionists in Craigavon may have acted illegally by expelling Mr Brendan Curran and Mr Brian McCann.

They may have acted contrary to the Local Government Act by taking the motion of exclusion before a mayor was elected.

There is also doubt over whether the ban would stand up in the courts because the councillors are preventing colleagues from carrying out their representative duties.

Unionists in Craigavon are now expected to pursue their crowded agenda of silencing Sinn Fein by selecting a joint committee omitting the Republicans which will take all the decisions on the running of the authority.

The trouble began yesterday when Democratic Unionists and Official Unionists combined in favour of a motion which meant the Sinn Fein members have to move to a separate table in the council chamber.

The Republicans refused and there was another motion to exclude them from the meeting altogether. When they refused once more to move, the police were called and the Sinn Fein councillors then went quietly after talking to a senior officer.

Mr David Calvert, of the DUP, who organised yesterday's manoeuvres, said last night that he and his fellow Unionists objected strongly to sitting down with Sinn Fein members.

"It is a point of principle," he said. "We will ostracise Sinn Fein at every opportunity. We will not give them a voice, any authority or any influence in the spending of taxpayers' money in Craigavon."

The Craigavon dispute followed hard on the heels of another row where on Tuesday night in Omagh, Co. Tyrone, a voting mix-up by Unionists led to the election of a Sinn Fein council chairman.

Unionists on the authority who are outnumbered by nationalists decided to put forward a candidate who had no chance of winning so as to force a second ballot between Sinn Fein and the constitutional nationalists, the Social Democratic and Labour Party.

By then voting for the SDLP candidate, Sinn Fein could have been beaten.

However, the DUP man received only two votes when not enough of his colleagues took part and it was deemed that not enough votes had been cast to force a second ballot — leaving Mr Seamus Kerr, of Sinn Fein, as the outright winner.

Seamus Kerr: won chairmanship

MP demands inquiry into NHS 'abuse'

By Andrew Veitch

Medical Correspondent

A Tory MP is calling for a new investigation into private practice in the health service following the case of a woman who paid £1,300 for a private hip operation because she thought she faced a four-year wait for NHS treatment.

The story of Mrs Marion Thornton, an arthritis sufferer from Scunthorpe, appeared in yesterday's Guardian. She was given an artificial hip at Scunthorpe general hospital four weeks after she asked for a private operation.

Mrs Thornton, who is suffering from arthritis of the spine, is still in pain despite a new hip. Her surgeon, Mr Shyams Kumar Mukerjee, says that the operation was a success.

He has been cleared by the Yorkshire regional health authority chairman, Mr Bryan Askew, of jumping the queue with his private patients and of doing more private practice than his NHS contract permits.

A report on alleged abuses of the private practice system by NHS consultants, drawn up by the Scunthorpe health authority chairman, Mr John Mason, as a result of the Thornton affair — has been sent to Mr

Kenneth Clarke, the health minister. Conservative MP, Mr Richard Hickmet, said last night: "Some consultants may be running artificially long lists to persuade patients to have operations performed privately."

"This is not a unique allegation. There is considerable concern that this is happening, and it has got to be investigated. I shall be asking Mr Clarke what evidence there is of the abuses reported by Mr Mason, and what investigations can be carried out."

Mr Mason, president of the Midlands Conservative Association, called for health officials

to be given powers to collect consultants' own fees for private patients, and warned that the NHS might be making a loss on treating private patients.

The attitude of some consultants to helping health authorities to identify private patients and recover charges was "at best reluctant and at worst downright obstructive," he said.

Mr Hickmet added last night: "I'm in favour of private medicine in the NHS — but I'm against abuses. The medical profession must be persuaded that it is in their own interests to put these matters right."

Prison amnesty urged for minor offenders

By Aileen Ballantyne

An amnesty for minor offenders to cut the number of sentenced prisoners from about 36,000 to 12,000 was proposed yesterday by the National Association of Probation Officers.

The association which has more than 6,000 members argues that the Government's plan for a £350 million prison building programme for 16 new prisons would be ineffective and uneconomic. It has asked MPs from all parties to support its amnesty plan.

The Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, will today formally open the first of the 16 jails at Wayland, in Norfolk. He has pledged that the Government's programme could well end overcrowding by "around the end of this decade" with the provision of 11,700 extra places.

With the 9,500 untried or unsentenced prisoners a record 45,000 are now held in jails in England and Wales.

Napo's report to MPs, says that every time the number of prison places has been increased, it has led to an increase in the prison population.

By going ahead with an expansionist prison policy the Government are acting against the findings of their own advisers, says Napo. A recent Home Office study found that 71 per cent of those given custodial sentences were reconvicted within six years.

Another recent Home Office report found that only half the victims of crime questioned said that "their" offender should be brought before the courts if caught.

Napo says that Britain has proportionately one of the highest prison populations in Western Europe with longer sentences imposed than in any other European country.

For non-violent offences, the association proposes a maximum sentence of 100 weeks for a single offence and 200 weeks for multiple offences.

It also proposes an amnesty for the immediate release of all prisoners who are within six months of release, and of all remaining prisoners serving three years or less for non-violent offences.

This would exclude prisoners serving sentences for offences such as armed robbery, rape or murder and other crimes of violence.

An amnesty... could provide an alternative to a massively expensive prison-building programme, and allow many petty offenders, for whom prison is of little use, back into the community, at little risk to society as a whole.

Napo says that the probation service would be willing to take on more serious and difficult offenders. It calls for an expansion of the use of community service orders requiring the offender to make reparation to the victim as a welcome departure from the futile punishment of imprisonment.

Mr Brittan last week received a hostile reception from prison officers when he addressed their annual conference and outlined the need to cut overtime worked in jails to justify the increase spending on prison building.

The week before, the Police Federation booted and jeered the Home Secretary, and passed a unanimous vote of no confidence in the Government's law and order policies.

Criminal Justice—An Alternative Strategy, Napo, 21, 34-4 Chiswick Road, Uxbridge, London SW11 1BT.

The prison population in England and Wales is expected to reach a total of 48,500 by 1993, according to the results of a study published by the Home Office yesterday.

Councils 'have right to go on campaign'

By Geoff Andrews, Local Government Correspondent

Council advertising campaigns are no more or less democratic than many of those organised by the Government, claims one of the groups involved.

In its evidence to the Middlecombe Inquiry into local government, set up by Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary in February to investigate overt political campaigning, the Local Government Information Unit says that democracy means participation in decisions. A wide range of information should be available both from central and local government.

The unit which represents 50 mainly Labour local authorities and a dozen unions, said: "Some of the information will be in conflict. It is for individual citizens to reach their own conclusions on the basis of all information. To assume that they cannot do so and have therefore to be denied access to certain types of sources of information is both dangerous and patronising."

And restraint on the exercise of local authorities' discretionary powers should be exercised by the ballot box. The evidence concerns only the first part of the investigation—a quick report on the subject of spending on adver-



City centre security gate — but the shops are thriving. Picture by Denis Thorpe.

Renascence in Belfast helps heal the wounds

Paul Johnson finds hope under the grimness and grime

THE picture of Belfast city centre so often seen on the television screens is one of dereliction and decay, of dirty houses and streets trampled by people with a remarkable capacity for stoic endurance.

Bloody Friday, the day in July 1972, when the IRA set off 26 explosions killing 11 and injuring 130, spelled doom for the city centre.

Within a few years the threat of indiscriminate violence and bombing had led to 300 retailers leaving the centre, most public houses closing their doors from the early evening and, at one stage, people being advised not to travel home in darkness.

The city's night life faded away. Business confidence decreased in proportion to the increasing number of bomb sites which gave the city a pockmarked complexion.

But now, under the superficial grimness and grime, a commercial renaissance is taking place. Two figures in particular bear witness to that: £86 million of investment in the past two years or in the pipeline; and in the past year 26 new restaurants have opened.

Although in the back-

ground there remains poverty and an unemployment rate of 22 per cent, the city centre has resumed a normality that was only a memory.

Some local people claim that the renaissance stems from the reopening in 1980 of the Grand Opera House after extravagant refurbishment of the Edwardian building.

Two imposing Victorian public houses opened a little later and since then there has been a boom. In the past three years, 41 restaurants, 38 cafes and 55 hot food bars have opened.

Several large stores have refurbished their premises, late night shopping has proved successful and day trippers, most from the Republic, are said to have spent \$120 million last year.

During the same time, the most obvious of the security measures — individual searches of those entering the fenced-off heart of the city — have been replaced by more discreet random checks.

More and more people are coming back into the city centre, said Mr Eddie Simpson, Belfast development officer. "They feel safer and more secure. Within the UK the image of

Belfast is beginning to change and it is now recognised as a good place to invest. A mood of optimism is afoot."

This revitalisation of the city centre has been accompanied by a conscious effort on the part of the Government to visually improve it.

Non-residential property on main roads attracts 75 per cent grants for items such as cleaning and roof repairs; the River Lagan is being cleaned, and more money is being spent on improving lighting, paving and landscaping.

Housing remains the biggest problem. Belfast grew quickly around the shipyards and the mills during the late 19th century. By the 1980s Belfast had a housing problem much more serious than other UK cities.

Government spending on housing in Northern Ireland has gone up by 70 per cent in the past five years to about £545 million this year. In the past 10 years, unemployment levels have dropped from 20 per cent to 18 per cent.

Everyone involved realises that the normality is fragile. All the progress could be rubbed out with a couple of strategically placed bombs.



Safety behind bars — the familiar face of Belfast. Picture by Denis Thorpe.

Belated tribute to Henry's first

By Martin Wainwright

THE Church of England will hold a belated tribute next year to Queen Catherine of Aragon who can lay claim to be its true founder. Royalty, bishops, and the Spanish ambassador will honour the woman whose failure to produce a son for Henry VIII led to the break with Rome.

The ceremony in Peterborough Cathedral, where Catherine is buried, will be 450 years late, which would not have surprised the Queen. After being urged to enter a nunnery and banished from Henry's presence, she was finally confined to Kimbolton Castle, near Peterborough, in an attempt to persuade her to disavow her marriage to the king.

Her stout refusal, which forced a divorce and the excommunication of Henry, won her popular support, according to the Tudor historian Polydore Vergil.

"Although rather ugly than otherwise; of low stature and stout, she was more beloved by the islanders of Britain than any queen that has ever reigned," he wrote.

Similar admiration for Catherine led to the memorial idea, which came from a Mrs Diane Howden a Conservative councillor in Peterborough, and has won the support of the majority Labour group.

Catherine's body lies beneath a royal standard, the Aragonese flag, and a simple black marble stone which was bought in a sudden flurry of civic interest in 1895.

Mrs Howden has invited the mayor of Catherine's Spanish birthplace to the ceremony. Peterborough diocese intends to ask all bishops and officials whose predecessors attended the queen's burial to the service on January 29, the anniversary of her funeral.

Catherine's failure to have a son was actually Henry's fault, because a child's sex is determined by the father's genes.

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Multinational 'task force' invades the Falklands

N THE evenings an hour or so after sunset this summer and early winter, a curious glow in the south has become visible from Government House, the Upland Goose, the Falkland Island Company jetty and most other points along Port Stanley harbour front.

The dark sky on the opposite side of the harbour gets faintly light again and is reflected in the water with the black humps of the Murrell Hills in between.

It is beautiful, like mesquite on the frontage of an old book; and most people noticing it for the first time dismissed it as one of the strange things this region does, like the sudden semi-tropical phosphorescence which sometimes appears round the Falklands' cool temperate shoreline.

It is, in fact, the distant light of part of a new Falkland task force at work, a more epic, disparate, and profitable fleet of vessels than ever sailed from Britain to the South Atlantic in 1982.

The glow travel miles from the floodlights of a multinational assembly of mother ships and trawlers loading their new catches — mostly squid — on to factory

International trawling fleets are scouring the South Atlantic for squid. John Ezard reports.

ships and bulk carriers at night in Berkeley Sound, a deep water harbour on the south coast of Portsmouth or Southampton Water.

You see it suddenly light up like a town as you fly over at dusk in an RAF Sea King reconnaissance helicopter. There was what some of the ship operators called 'congestion' in Berkeley Sound during last week.

It was full of trawlers black with squid ink on the last panic of the creatures as they were hauled aboard by predators for which evolution never prepared them. Among other activities, five carriers with capacities ranging from 5,000-8,000 tons were loading full cargoes of squid to take home to Japan and elsewhere.

This gave them a single consignment worth a total of £25 million to £40 million at the early May world market price of £1,000 a tonne for what is a delicacy in the Far East and Mediterranean. It was a good year for squid.

The arithmetic of last week's single haul in the eight months season in the only offshore waters in the

world without a fishing limit approaches the £48 million which Britain has so far spent on the entire post-conflict rehabilitation and development of the Falklands. The contrast is not lost on those on shore.

It is a cost-effective operation. Captain Arne Lundquist, of Cool Carriers, the Swedish firm which supplies the carriers, says that 14 men working hard can freeze 20 tonnes of squid in a shift, a day's work which makes £20,000 for their bosses.

Aboard the Japanese-chartered ships on days off from shore jobs are eight Falkland Islands stevedores working in holds kept at minus 30 Celsius manhandling blocks of squid frozen at minus 35 Celsius, earning £50 for a 12 hour shift. It is a rare chance of big money. "They are a hardy breed," said Captain Lundquist. "That type of job doesn't bother them."

These ships are only the "good boys," the small minority who pay harbour dues to shelter and work in the sound. Fly further out on a Sea King patrol into the 150-mile protection zone and within 40 minutes you have

seen another 18 vessels. And that is just within an eighth of the inner part of the zone within Sea King range.

This month 200 have been counted inside the whole zone, from the Soviet Union, Poland, Bulgaria, Spain, Japan, South Korea, and, for the first time this year, Taiwan. Earlier in the season, a record 300 were counted.

The fleets currently total some 8,000 men, a figure which dwarfs the Falklands garrison and population put together. It is the South Atlantic's biggest population south of Capetown.

Some crewmen, notably from eastern Europe, are at sea eight months a year. Recently one tried to commit suicide by stabbing himself twice in the stomach and jumping overboard. He was rescued and treated at Stanley, which, like the RAF's search and rescue helicopters, is available in emergencies.

It is this combination of a military shield with absence of a limit which has led to such a gold rush. The fish, especially the squid, turn up in markets all over the world from Japan to Britain,

where it is bartered at a high swap rate for Scots mackerel.

By well-informed trade estimates, the total catch is worth £200 million a year, not far from half the yearly cost of the Falklands garrison.

The task of the Sea Kings is to log the vessels, names and check their holds and antennae, in case one is being used as an Argentine trojan horse. At dusk this means flying low and spotlighting them.

The detailed patrols, like those of the Hercules aircraft which watch the outer zone, are expensive in maintenance and flying hours. Although the sums have not apparently been done in Whitehall, it is accepted that the trawlers add substantially to the garrison's flying and other costs.

For nearly two years, the Falklands government has been pressing for a unilateral fishing limit. This is partly to raise revenue but also for conservation. Councillors have seen the whale disappear from local waters in their lifetimes because of plunder-level fishing

in South Georgia. They believe that at current rates stocks will be exhausted within two or three years, with catastrophic effects on the South Atlantic wildlife chain.

One of the favourite trawling grounds near the 100 fathom limit where fish tend to surface, is by Beauchene Island, one of the biggest breeding places of the black-browed albatross.

Foreign Office ministers have never discussed their qualms about a unilateral limit in public detail. But these centre round Argentine sensitivities and, more notably, dread of confrontation with a Russian vessel which refused to observe the limit. The Government's current tack is to try for a multinational conservation policy but little hope is held out.

Speaking as individuals, the Sea King crew — Ian Robertson, John Leach, Mick Headland and Jim Prentice — which flew me over the trawlers, saw sense in the point about Russia. They, like others in the garrison, point out that a limit would demand a comprehensive "board and search" facility

beyond the Royal Navy's present role or resources.

Most informed Islanders remain unconvinced. They are confident that a limit would largely police itself. From experience elsewhere, ships which paid for licences should be the first to harass and report interlopers.

So are some of the fishing nations. Japan badly wants a limit. Arne Lundquist, who deals with them daily, says: "If you have controlled fishing, you have a controlled market. Everyone knows where they are. It is this prospect of a glut that upsets everything."

This occurred in Taiwan last week when the squid price fell from \$1,000 to \$400 a tonne, although it was apparently holding up reasonably in Mediterranean markets. Captain Lundquist, also a national supporter of the conservation argument, was horrified to hear of dolphins and penguins in some of the catches.

That argument also strikes home with the Sea King crew. "It ticks me," one said. "If wildlife is being endangered, we should do something about it. It should be bred into our bones to protect wildlife."

Kinnock meets Tribune to test feelings

By John Carvel, Political Correspondent
Mr Neil Kinnock has agreed to meet the Tribune group of Labour MPs for the first time since becoming party leader.

The meeting on Monday will provide an important test of the extent to which he retains the support in the Parliamentary ranks after his attempts to jettison the party's appeal.

Mr Kinnock is still a member of the Tribune group, but has not attended meetings for at least 8 months.

It will be important for Mr Kinnock to put up a good show, because particularly some of its younger members are in a pivotal position in the current process of re-alignment of the Labour left.

The group, which in 1983 intake of Labour MPs has been meeting privately for the past few months. They include members of Tribune and members of the further left Campaign group.

They are understood to be drafting a common policy statement for publication in the late summer. The view in this class of '83 is that they are able to work together more easily than some of the older members of the rival Parliamentary left groups whose mutual animosities hardened during the rows over the 1981 deputy leadership contest between Mr Denis Healey and Mr Tony Benn.

They are keen to support Mr Kinnock's drive to modernise the party, but anxious lest he demonstrates any further loss of a left perspective.

In a separate development the Tribune group will meet on June 10 to decide on its recommendations for the national executive committee elections at party conference.

Tribune will not be making up a formal list of candidates, but is likely to recommend four or five names, probably including Mr David Blunkett, the Sheffield city council leader, who was surprisingly excluded from the campaign group slate.

Rail stop

Swindon railway workshops, which is threatened with closure, was brought to a standstill by a one-day strike yesterday. Only a handful of the 2,500 men turned up for work.

No injuries seen by Jasmine visitor

By Sarah Beasley
The health visitor who saw Jasmine Beckford in the year after she was returned from foster care to her parents, never noticed any injuries on the child, an inquiry into Jasmine's death heard yesterday.

Miss Yeng Lai Lo, who is attached to the Mortimer Road health clinic in Brent, north London, visited the Beckford family from July, 1982, after Jasmine and her sister Louise were sent home.

In March Maurice Beckford was sentenced to 10 years for Jasmine's manslaughter.

At the public inquiry yesterday, Miss Leong said it was her job to get the confidence of her children and parents when she visited at home and watched their relationship. She would get down on the floor, play with the children and pick them up, hoping to detect any non-accidental injuries.

Asked whether she ever saw signs of abuse in the Beckford children, she replied: "There was no occasion when I noticed any sort of injuries."

Miss Leong told the inquiry, chaired by Mr Louis Blom-Cooper QC, that she last saw Jasmine for certain on April 22, 1983, more than a year before she died.

Miss Leong said she had been ill on the day a case conference decided to take the children off the at-risk register. No information on the family was requested from her.

She said she had received no advice from senior nursing officers about the frequency of visits to children on the register or how to deal with such families, nor was there any plan for regular liaison with social workers.

The inquiry continues.

Children 'paying for war and miners' strike'

By Andrew Moncrieff, Education Staff

Schoolchildren are effectively paying the cost of the Falklands war and the miners' strike through cuts in education spending, Mr Derek Best, said yesterday in his presidential address at the annual conference of the National Association of Head Teachers in Scarborough.

It would prove catastrophic if the present generation in schools had to bear the cost of both campaigns. Yet who can deny that this is what is happening," he asked.

At the same time that the Government was admitting the need for improvements in the pupil-teacher ratio, it was forcing cuts by its spending policies.

Mr Best, head of Vyners comprehensive school, Hillingdon, north London, condemned the campaign of sanctions imposed by teachers, which is causing widespread disruption in schools. But he understood the frustrations that had led to it.

He warned of the disciplinary problems which result from strike action and the teachers' withdrawal of good-

will, and said: "The price of inadequate supervision at lunchtime is greater indiscipline in the afternoon."

"The price of strike action by teachers is increasing truancy and strike action by pupils — and it is hypocrisy for teachers involved in sanctions to condemn the action taken by some pupils on Thursday, April 25."

"The true cost of teachers' sanctions lies in the messages that come out of the hidden curriculum."

"Instead of pupils being led towards a greater social awareness, greater commitment and involvement, greater concern for others less fortunate than themselves, they have set before them the example of actions which they will interpret as those of the 'I'm all right, Jack' philosophy of self-interest and materialism dominant over concern for others and over idealism."

We do have to look very seriously at the idea that teachers should give up the right to strike in return for a professional salary and some machinery, such as a pay review body, to prevent subsequent erosion," he said.

Lunch closing at schools ruled out

By our Education Staff

Lunchtime closing next term in all schools where teachers' sanctions mean that children cannot be properly supervised was rejected yesterday by the head teachers.

The heads rejected the advice of their chief pay negotiator, who had emphasised the common purpose of all teachers. He had urged the heads to come out in favour of a clear-cut statement of intent.

Mr Frank Mills, who represents the National Association of Head Teachers at the Education Committee salary talks, told delegates at the NAHT annual conference in Scarborough that the employers must be given a clear message. "We have reached the point where, enough really is enough," he said.

The heads have been keeping schools running while their teachers have staged strikes, banned cover for absent staff, and refused to remain in school at mid-day.

The conference adopted a resolution warning local authorities that head teachers will be forced to reduce school services unless the pay dispute is resolved quickly.

An amendment from London members adding the threat of autumn term lunchtime closures was rejected. Mr Don Blenkinsopp, a former NAHT president, warned delegates: "We will be accused of taking industrial action through the back door."

The delegates were immediately criticised by Mr Joe Boone, president of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, who said that the decision would harden the divide between classroom teachers and heads. "The question was they are coming out or not, and I think they bottled out," he said.

The head teachers strongly criticised Sir Keith Joseph's handling of the pay negotiations.

Westminster North — the old Paddington seat plus a part of St John's Wood — was won by the Conservatives in 1983 by Mr John Wheeler with a majority of 1,710.

Ms Edwards, 30, worked at the Ministry of Agriculture for five years. From 1981 to 1983, she worked for CND as a trade union officer and coordinator of the local authority nuclear free zone campaign. Like



The Greenpeace ship Gendarru with members of the Antarctic expedition, (from left) (Ralph John, Jonathon Castle, Pete Wilkinson, Gerry Johnson and Andy Hull.

Peace campaigner chosen as Labour candidate in all-women contest

By Seamus Milne

A peace movement activist has been selected from an all-women shortlist to fight the marginal London constituency of Westminster North for Labour at the next general election.

Ms Jenny Edwards, who is the nuclear free zone officer in the London borough of Camden, won the nomination on Monday night against four other candidates: Ms Diane Abbott, a black Westminster councillor; Ms Pat Healy, a Times journalist; Ms Frances Crook, a Finchley councillor; and Ms Barbara Hughes, a former mayor of Camden.

The votes split 48-25 in the final ballot between Ms Edwards and Ms Abbott.

Westminster North — the old Paddington seat plus a part of St John's Wood — was won by the Conservatives in 1983 by Mr John Wheeler with a majority of 1,710.

Ms Edwards, 30, worked at the Ministry of Agriculture for five years. From 1981 to 1983, she worked for CND as a trade union officer and coordinator of the local authority nuclear free zone campaign. Like

Ms Abbott, she went to Cambridge University. The use of the all-women shortlist represents a notable victory for the campaign for better women's representation in the Labour Party. Hornsey and Wood Green Labour Party has announced that it will follow suit.

There are at present only 11 women in a parliamentary Labour Party of 208. In addition, five women have been selected to fight safe Labour seats previously held by men: Audrey Wise (Preston), Joan Lester (Eccles), Joyce Quinn (Gateshead East), Hilary Armstrong (Durham North-west and Middlesbrough), and Bow and Poplar.

But the Westminster North result is a disappointment for those who had hoped that Ms Abbott would become Labour's candidate at the next election.

The black Lewisham councillor, Mr Russell Proffitt, was selected as East Lewisham candidate earlier this month — but the decision was declared invalid by the national executive because black section delegates participated in the selection conference.

John Carvel adds: Labour's working party on positive discrimination for ethnic minorities is expected at its final meeting today to recommend that the party should appoint a senior officer with responsibility for all matters relating to ethnic communities.

The working party will also agree that there should be more representation of ethnic minorities at every level of the party. But the group will split on the most sensitive issue of whether the party constitution should be amended to allow the establishment of black sections.

The majority of the working party believes that black sections are a necessary step towards positive discrimination, in spite of the fierce opposition of the party leader, Mr Neil Kinnock.

A minority report by the Labour MPs Mr Robin Corbett and Mr Alf Dubbs, supported by Mrs Rida Austin, an unsuccessful Labour candidate in 1983, agreed with Mr Kinnock that it is unacceptable for the party to define its members on the basis of colour or ethnic origin.

Attempt to claim Antarctica for world

By Gareth Parry

GREENPEACE launched its campaign yesterday to claim the Antarctic continent as a "World Heritage Park for future generations."

The newly-acquired Greenpeace vessel Gendarru, a 191-foot sea-going tug, will leave Hamburg on September 1 for Antarctica via New York, Auckland and Sydney.

During the three-month voyage a series of protest actions will be mounted. Greenpeace is not releasing details of them for fear they might be stopped.

A base will also be established for a mechanic, doctor, radio-operator and scientist, making Greenpeace the first non-governmental organisation to set up a permanent scientific base camp in the Antarctic.

On arrival in Antarctica, Greenpeace will declare Antarctica a world park for all the people of the earth.

Roger Wilson, campaign co-ordinator, said yesterday: "Antarctica is the last true wilderness and is under dire threat from mineral hungry nations. The Antarctic environment is of critical importance not only to the Southern Ocean, but also the whole planet."

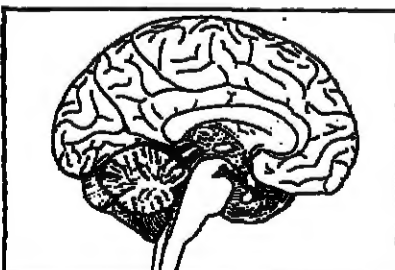
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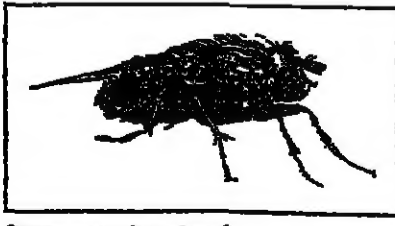
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The inquiry continues.

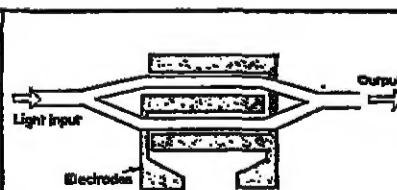
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Radical expelled by RSPCA

By Penny Chorlton

The council of the RSPCA yesterday voted to expel one of its most radical members in the continuing fight between moderates and activists in the animal welfare lobby.

Mr Kim Stallwood, campaigns organiser of the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, was voted off the council by a two-thirds majority.

Mr Stallwood made himself unpopular with his RSPCA colleagues in January when he told a public meeting in Birmingham that the charity's advisory committee on animal experiments included practising experimenters.

Two of the witnesses who gave evidence against him are members of the BUAV, who face expulsion from the group when an emergency general meeting on June 8.

The RSPCA spokesman said: "We felt it could not be tolerated that a member of our council was allowed to make serious public criticism of the charity and some of its individual, named members."

Irish broadcasting seat for ex-BBC reporter

From Joe Joyce in Dublin

The BBC's former political correspondent in Northern Ireland, Mr W. D. Flackes, has been appointed to the authority of its broadcasting service RTE.

Mr Flackes, who retired from his BBC post in 1982, is one of nine members of the new authority which takes office after controversy.

The Irish Government had prevented the previous authority from appointing a new director general for the station earlier this year. The Communications Minister, Mr Jim Mitchell, refused to sanction their choice on the grounds that a review of Irish broadcasting was required before a new head was appointed to RTE.

His action was condemned by the Opposition Fianna Fail party as political interference designed to block the appointment of a candidate they did not favour.

Channel tunnel or other fixed link goes ahead.

Last month the Government said in its guidelines on the development of a Channel link that the replacement of the A20 between Folkestone and Dover was "firmly programmed."

Villagers in Kent and the Dover Harbour Board, which runs Britain's biggest ferry port, are demanding that the Government explain its sudden decision to defer a £45 million scheme to improve the A20 road between Folkestone and Dover.

The Government has indicated that the scheme to improve the seven-mile stretch of road which carries the bulk of the traffic using the port is unlikely to be needed if a

Harbour Board and chairman of the Flexlink group campaigning against a fixed Channel link, said that he will seek clarification from the Transport Secretary, Mr Nicholas Ridley.

Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, Opposition spokeswoman on transport, has filed a parliamentary question asking for an explanation.

Critics of the scheme to build a Channel link regard the decision on the A20 as the first example of the delays in decision-making which occurred in the 1970s when speeding on transport schemes was deferred pending a decision on a fixed link.

The board estimates that it will take at least 10 years before the Government gives the go ahead for a scheme at the end of this year as promised.

Dover handles 14 million passengers, 1.6 million cars and 750,000 tonnes each year.

The board forecasts that by 10 per cent each year over the next 10 years,

Talks with Reagan unlikely to produce gain for Jordan

Hussein visit brings little new hope for peace

From Michael White in Washington

King Hussein of Jordan yesterday had talks at the White House with President Reagan and senior officials, in an atmosphere of mutual regard, but with little hope of serious progress in pursuit of a Middle East peace process or a fresh sale of US arms to Jordan.

Since the Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, made optimistic noises about the prospects for progress after talks in Jordan two weeks ago, officials here have played down the likelihood of a breakthrough, such as the White

House's agreeing on a list of acceptable Palestinians who could be included in a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to Washington.

In a much quoted remark, a senior US official said: "Our goals are modest for the visit. It is part of a process that we hope in the end will lead to an extension of the peace process and to direct negotiations. But there is still a long way to go, and I would caution you not to look for dramatic occurrences in the next 48 hours."

The king has been in the US to see his son graduate from

Brown University, Rhode Island, and in addition to talks and dinners in Washington yesterday and today, he was due to receive an honorary degree at Georgetown University last night.

Jordanian officials confirmed yesterday that the King had cancelled an interview with NBC television on Friday, and was returning home early. But they dismissed reports that this was because of irritation with the advance billing his talks have received.

Since King Hussein and Mr Yasser Arafat published in February a framework for progress which appeared to offer recognition of Israel's right to exist in return for Palestinian self-determination in the context of UN Security Council resolutions, the US has been pressing for an explicit acceptance of UN Resolutions 242 and 338. Moderate Arab

officials, including President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, have been urging the US to meet a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The US, which wants such representatives to have direct talks with Israel, as Egypt itself did to reach peace — have refused to see Palestinians with PLO links, a stance the Arab moderates would like to weaken.

Thus officials have been coping with possible names of Palestinians who are likely to be unacceptable to one side or another, not least Israel or the PLO itself. But a further dimension to the talks is Jordan's continuing ambition to obtain Stinger missiles, F16 fighters, and Hawk anti-aircraft missiles.

Shamir call to free suspects

Jerusalem: The Foreign Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, said yesterday it was essential for Israel to release 25 Jews accused of terror attacks on Palestinians.

"What I want is for all parts of the Government to reach a consensus that clemency should be given," he said, in an armed forces radio interview. "I see ending this affair as necessary and essential for the nation. We will find a way."

Mr Shamir has spearheaded a campaign by rightwing members of the Cabinet to release the suspects, including five charged with murder for a July 1983 shooting in a college campus in Hebron that killed three Palestinians and wounded 30. The campaign has gained support since Israel released 1,150 Arab prisoners, including 167 murderers, last Monday to replace three soldiers captured in Lebanon.

The Government yesterday easily won parliamentary approval for the exchange. The Knesset voted 85 to six, with 16 abstentions, to accept the Defence Minister, Mr Yitzhak Rabin's statement that Israel had no choice but to accept the terms of the exchange.

Only two MPs from government parties abstained. Five members of the ultra-nationalist Tehiya Party and the militant anti-Arab, Bebbi Meir Kahane, voted against.

The Government had said it would regard the outcome of the vote as an expression of confidence, indicating that failure to win would have led to its resignation.

"This Government has weakened the nation," Gush Cohen, of Tehiya, said, echoing speeches from other rightwing and some centrist MPs. — AP/Reuters.

Briton is found dead in Beirut

BEIRUT: Denis HILL, a British teacher at the American University of Beirut, has been found dead. His body was discovered at the university hospital yesterday, a spokesman said.

Mr Hill, aged 53, taught the university's special intensive English course. Colleagues said he had not been seen since the weekend. "When he failed to show up for work on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, a fellow teacher got worried and went to check on him at his apartment," a colleague said. "He went to the American university hospital and found the body among unidentified corpses at the morgue."

There was no indication who shot Mr Hill or why. The area around the university campus, in West Beirut, is controlled by Shiite Muslims and Druse militias. Mr Hill lived about 200 yards from the campus.

Gunmen have kidnapped more than a dozen Westerners in West Beirut in the past 14 months.

Israeli officials arrived in Beirut yesterday for renewed talks on the Sinai enclave of Taba, with Egypt insisting that the dispute be submitted to international arbitration.

Mr David Kimche, director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, said on arrival that the two sides would try to sharpen and clarify some points discussed in earlier talks.

The Egyptian envoy, Mr Esmat Abdel-Maguid, reiterated his country's demand that the dispute over Taba, a 700-yard strip of the Sinai desert coast, be settled by arbitration. — AP/Reuters.

West German ship hit in Gulf attack

Bahrain: Iraq said that its warplanes hit the West German ship *Tabira* in the Gulf yesterday while a West German cargo ship in the Gulf was struck by an air-fired rocket in an apparent Iranian raid.

In Baghdad, a military spokesman said that Iraqi planes raided Tehran early yesterday for the second time in five hours and later hit targets in Tabriz, about 44 miles from the Turkish border.

In the Gulf, the captain of the 18,535-ton *Norasia* Rebecca said that the ship was hit by a rocket during an attack by two unidentified planes. None of the 21-man crew was hurt and the vessel did not need help.

Iran and Iraq, at war since September, 1980, have been locked in retaliatory strikes on civilian centres since Sunday, after Baghdad accused Tehran of involvement in an attempt to assassinate the Emir of Kuwait, a charge denied by Iran.

Iran said on Tuesday that it had launched its ninth ground-to-ground missile attack on Iranian military and industrial centres

in 12 Iraqi cities and towns after Iraqi strikes. Baghdad reported that Iranian shelling of the southern Iraqi city of Basra yesterday killed three schoolgirls and wounded 27 while they were sitting examinations.

Iran's national news agency, Irna, said that Iraqi planes overflew Tehran on Tuesday night, but quoted officials as saying that no targets were hit. Eleven people were killed in an area east of Qazvin, where two rockets in an air raid were slightly hurt.

The *Norasia* Rebecca's captain, Hans-Juergen Wieb, said that a rocket tore a three yard by two yard hole in a star-board water ballast tank. The vessel, which had left Dammam in Saudi Arabia for Karachi in 10 hours earlier, was hit in an area east of Qazvin where at least 17 merchant ships have been attacked by Iranian jets. — Reuters.

Israelis in final stage of south Lebanon pullout

Training for SLA intensified as new fortifications go up throughout security zone

From Ian Black in Marjayoun, S Lebanon

FROM its headquarters in the old French fort on the hill above Marjayoun, the Israeli army is putting the finishing touches to the security zone it is leaving behind in South Lebanon. Convoys of troops continue to move back across the border to meet next week's deadline for the completion of the withdrawal.

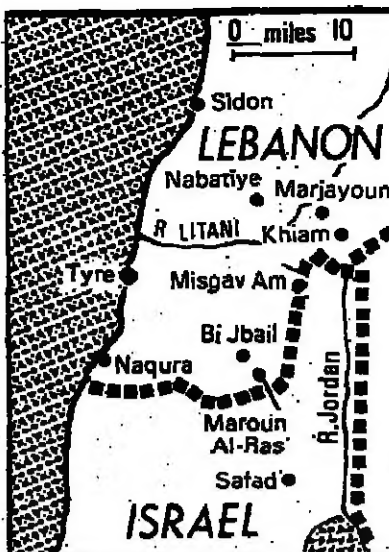
The military is trying to keep a low profile during the final stage of the pull-out, but a tour of the occupied area yesterday revealed intensified training for the South Lebanese Army — the largely Christian force that Israel hopes will keep the peace after it leaves — and last-minute construction work on new fortifications throughout the security zone.

It is becoming increasingly clear that despite the government's declared commitment for a full withdrawal by the third anniversary of the outbreak of war next Thursday, some Israeli personnel will almost certainly be staying behind. Normally forthright officers attached to the SLA become suddenly shy when asked where they will be

based at the end of next week.

The Israelis will not comment on reports that 500 advisers will stay on to work with the SLA, but in the courtyard of the force's headquarters here Israeli defence force personnel mingled freely with the Lebanese soldiers. They were indistinguishable from each other in identical olive green battle dress.

General Antoine Lahad, the silver-haired commander of the force, refused to be drawn on the precise degree of Israeli support he will be getting. "It will be enough,"



Search for peace: While troops try to restore peace in the north (above) Israeli soldiers in south Lebanon are keeping a low profile as next week's withdrawal deadline approaches



he said carefully in his bare, high-ceilinged office. "To enable the SLA to keep peace and order in this area."

"In case of an organised attack backed by a foreign power, like Syria, I will expect more backing from Israel. But we shall never call for their help except in the case of real need."

He warned that the SLA would insist on free passage through areas controlled by the Unifil peace-keeping force after several recent incidents when UN troops tried to block them.

General Lahad, whose 2,000 man force is trained,

paid, and supplied by Israel, argued that Amal, the mainstream Shiite movement which had taken control of most of the south evacuated so far by Israel, would never be in a position to control the whole area.

Israeli sources have made clear that if it were possible to come to an agreement with Amal, now embroiled in fierce battles with the Palestinians around Beirut, they would rethink the conception of the security zone and with it, presumably, the central role allotted to the SLA.

In the absence of such an agreement though, and the

real danger of attacks by other Shiite or Palestinian groups, General Lahad's men are all that stands between the dangers of Lebanon and Israel's northern border.

At Majidiya, once a stud farm owned by a Druze chieftain, we watched as an Israeli major ran SLA Sherman tanks crews through their gunnery paces, firing carefully at an orange oil drum in the wide, flat valley east of Marjayoun.

Partly shielded from view by a double line of old eucalyptus trees, Israeli workers are constructing a large compound surrounded by

high wire fences, powerful lights and watch towers. It looks suspiciously like a prison camp.

"Don't ask me what it is," a grizzled SLA guard said. "The Israelis are building it."

The fort at Marjayoun, a peck-marked structure of two-story, concrete block houses built round a central compound, is a mess of Lebanese signs and battered Lebanese Mercedes cars. The offices of the IDF's Lebanon Liaison Unit are still here, although some of its personnel are now back across the border.

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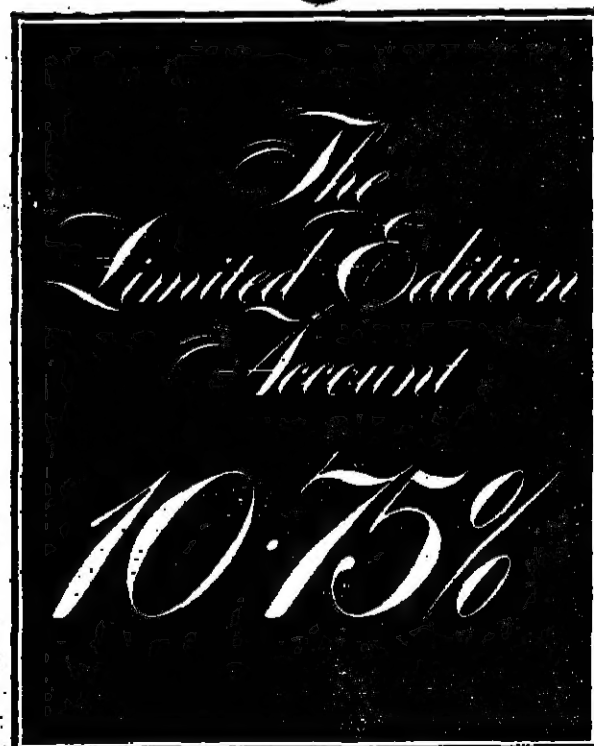
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Summit may herald an intervention by Syria

Gemayel flies to Damascus after missiles hit palace

From David Hirst in Beirut

President Amine Gemayel flew to Damascus yesterday for a summit conference with President Hafez Assad. The seventh and most important such encounter in less than two years, the talks are widely believed to herald a decisive Syrian intervention to "save" a country over which its own leaders have completely lost control.

Shortly before President Gemayel left his palace at Ba'abda came under a barrage of artillery fire. The shells and surface-to-surface missiles reportedly hit a section of the palace in which the President was lunching, setting it on fire.

The timing of the barrage, which coincided with another one on Beirut airport, suggested that it may have been an attempt to kill the President at a critical moment. He later took a helicopter to Larzouca and flew from there to Damascus.

As if to underline the importance of the meeting, a Syrian official disclosed — unusually — that President Assad himself had just returned to Damascus to meet Mr. Gemayel. The official did not say where President Assad had been, but reports have been circulating in the Middle East that the Syrian leader has just paid a secret visit to Moscow, something he is in the habit of doing on the eve of big decisions.

The summit was originally scheduled to take place about a fortnight ago. Apparently, at

Syria's request, it was put off. Evidently the Syrians felt that Mr. Gemayel had not given enough proof of his determination that the summit should succeed.

Among other things, Syria wanted to see substantial progress towards resolving the problem of Jezzine, the southern Christian town which the Israeli-backed South Lebanese Army is still occupying in defiance of the Lebanese army, and various militias.

With "the battle of the camps" have come signs that Syria does not have quite such a strong hold on Lebanon's chaos as has been generally supposed. The conflict has deeply strained Syria's relations with anti-Arafat Palestinian guerrillas. Syria's chosen instrument, the Shi'ite organisation, Amal, has failed to reduce the Palestinian camps which Syria sees as a potential

springboard on which the PLO chairman, Mr. Yasser Arafat, could renew his influence in Lebanon.

Most local newspapers yesterday forecast that Syria is now going to step in forcefully to try to achieve a general Lebanese settlement, which may well involve the return of the Syrian army to Beirut and other regions from which it was driven out by the Israeli invasion of 1982.

Before leaving for Damascus, President Gemayel held consultations with Christian leaders, raising speculation that he was seeking firm, written commitments that they would not object if Syria wanted him to ask for the "peacekeepers" to return.

Despite intense consultations, the Syrian-backed Palestinians and Amal are still at loggerheads about the terms of a ceasefire in the "battle of the camps". But Mr. Gemayel is now aiming for a general settlement of the Lebanese civil war, an end to that particular conflict, would presumably be subsumed within a larger plan for the country as a whole.

● The Prime Minister of India, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, in his capacity as chairman of the Non-aligned Movement, yesterday appealed for a halt to the fighting at Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut.

"I earnestly appeal to all concerned to make necessary efforts to put an end to this vicious cycle which has caused us anguish and sorrow," he said.

President Assad said to have been in Moscow

to maintain services in the face of Federal budget cuts.

Mr. Cuomo charged that the bill is "an insult to the fundamental principles of federalism." He said that while "tax reform can be both fair and productive, this specific plan is neither."

Other high taxation states, from California to New Jersey, are expected to launch similar complaints and lobby heavily on Capitol Hill to defeat the provisions.

On Wall Street, there were worries yesterday. "I think we are going to reduce revenues with it," argued Dr. William Griggs, of the firm of financial consultants, Griggs and Santow. In effect, the loss of revenues is likely to mean even bigger budget deficits in the future, higher interest rates, and perhaps a continuation of the strong dollar.

Despite these strong reservations, Democrats on Capitol Hill were yesterday trading warily. They realise it would not be in their interests to challenge a popular President when he is proposing to reduce taxes on their constituents.

The Democrat chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Dan Rostenkowski, said his party would support the radical new code "if the President's plan is everything he says it is."

But the Democrats would not "rubber stamp" the bill.

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He said that the people who are being asked to pay for these preferences are people in the middle class.

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The President, seeking to make gains for the Republican Party at the expense of the Democrats, has pitched the bill as a "Second American Revolution" which, like the Revolution of 1776, will end a repressive regime of taxation which stifles "free markets and diverts productive investment."

But the plan, which would alter fundamentally almost every aspect of America's tax code, brought forth strong and immediate criticism. There are fears on Wall Street and among economists that this tax reform package, like its predecessor in 1981, will lead to higher budget deficits eliminating the recent gains made in cutting public spending from social programmes to defence.

However, the toughest reaction came from the state of New York, the second most populous in the nation, whose residents will no longer be able to offset state and local taxes against federal income if the tax plan is passed unchanged.

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Bleak outlook for arms control

By Hella Pick

The United States and the Soviet Union resume their arms control negotiations today with agreement only that the first round of the talks, earlier this year, was "completely fruitless."

Each side, however, is blaming the other for this failure, and there are no indications that Mr. Max Kampelman, the chief US negotiator, or Mr. Viktor Karpov, the leader of the Soviet delegation, have returned to Geneva with proposals designed to break the stalemate.

The principal point at issue is President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative — the Star Wars project to develop a defensive shield in space against nuclear attack, which the Administration refuses to put on the negotiating table while it remains in its research phase.

The Soviet Union asserts that the Americans are undermining the search for arms control agreements, and Mr. Karpov, on his arrival in Geneva yesterday, insisted that "the renunciation of the development, including research, testing and deployment of space arms" was the only way of persuading the Kremlin to negotiate about "radical reductions in nuclear arms."

The Americans said that the Russians were "backtracking" in Geneva, and Mr. Richard Burt, the US Assistant Secretary for European Affairs, has this week again voiced the complaint that the Soviet Union was trying to hold the Geneva talks hostage to a ban on US space weapons research.

Mr. Kampelman yesterday promised that "we will do all we can to achieve progress, but said US objects to the arms talks were "to achieve radical reductions in offensive nuclear weapons and to create a more stable strategic environment on earth and in space".

The US has left its ABIES in no doubt that research into space weapons will go ahead, regardless of Soviet opposition and West European reservations. It said it will reject any deal with the Soviet Union that would require the US to abandon SDI.

"The message will again be repeated at next week's meeting of the US-Soviet ministerial commission," Mr. Burt said.

US Vice-President, Mr. Bush, is planning a visit to London, Bonn, Paris, and Rome in the first half of July, when he will urge the West Europeans to welcome SDI wholeheartedly, and agree to underwrite it by joining research plans.

The Europeans, far from enthusiastic about the growing pressure from Washington, would have preferred Mr. Bush to postpone his trip until the autumn.

The Soviet leader, Mr. Gorbachev, has also intensified his propaganda campaign, which is designed to deter Western Europeans from endorsing SDI. The Soviet leadership has issued one warning after another, that there can be no progress on reducing nuclear arsenals, while research into space weapons continues in the US.

The US Congress this month voted to give "humanitarian" aid worth \$115 million on top of an estimated \$300 million of military aid in recent years to the Afghan rebels.

An offensive by about 10,000 Soviet troops up the Kuzar valley in eastern Afghanistan appears set on establishing a large Communist base less than a mile from the Pakistan border, Western diplomats said yesterday in Islamabad.

In southern Africa, where the US assistant secretary of state, Dr. Chester Crocker, today faces a Soviet delegation led by Mr. Vladimir Vasev, an Africa specialist, the Administration's policy of "constructive engagement" to "ameliorate apartheid" is collapsing under internal events within South Africa itself and growing political pressure at home.

With the White House beating a rear-guard action against the imposition of some form of economic sanctions by Congress, the Administration was embarrassed last week when a South African commando unit was intercepted inside Angola in breach of last year's undertaking to withdraw all forces.

The people have hopes that they can soon become self-sufficient rather than live on American handouts.

At their new home, Mejaio, in the Kawajella hills, 100 miles from Rongalap, they face many practical difficulties just to survive. First of all, they have to rebuild their houses, dig new wells and then begin to cultivate the wilderness that is their previously uninhabited island.

Despite these difficulties, there was no question in the minds of the islanders that they should leave Rongalap.

THE ENTIRE population of the contaminated atoll of Rongalap, their personal belongings, and the contents of their homes had been shipped by the Greenpeace ship, Rainbow Warrior to a new home yesterday. Now the 320 people can start a new life without the fear that everything they eat contains plutonium and caesium sucked up from the earth, the residue from America's 1954 Bravo bomb set off at Bikini.

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Judge Severino Santapietri presiding over the trial in Rome yesterday.

Turk's evidence 'inconsistent'

Rome: A 39-year-old Turk accused of assisting in a plot to kill the Pope said yesterday that he kept a weapon for the man who shot the pontiff because I knew he was a terrorist and I was afraid.

Omer Bagci told a court here that he assumed that Mehmet Ali Agca had handed him the Browning 9mm pistol in 1981 "as part of some plan," but said he knew nothing about a plot to kill the Pope.

Nervously answering questions posed by the president of the court, Mr. Severino Santapietri, Bagci twice contradicted evidence he had given during investigations into the alleged plot to kill the Pope in St Peter's Square on May 13, 1981.

Neither Agca nor Musa Serdar Celebi, the other Turk on trial, were in court as Bagci testified, but the Bulgarian defendant, Sergei Antonov, was present.

Bagci said Agca handed him a package containing the pistol in April 1981, at Olen, Switzerland, where Bagci lived and organised a Turkish immigrants organisation.

"I was 90 per cent certain it was a weapon, but it was wrapped up in rags and I did not open the package," Bagci said. In earlier evidence he had admitted opening the package, Mr. Santapietri told the court.

The judge asked Bagci why he did not hand over the weapon to Swiss police when he knew Agca had been condemned to death in Turkey for the murder of a Turkish journalist, Mr. Abdi Ipekci, in 1979 and had declared he wanted to kill the Pope.

Bagci replied: "I was afraid of Ali Agca. If I had given up the weapon he would have taken reprisals against me."

Ambitious Greek Communists seeking balance of power

From Campbell Page in Athens

Eleven years after the Communist party was legalised here, it is still struggling to see its way through the maze of Greek politics.

If Mr. Andreas Papandreu's ruling Socialists, Pasok, fail to win an absolute majority in the election, the Communists know that as the third largest party in parliament, they would have real power.

To form a government, Mr. Papandreu would have to accept their support (which he now rejects in principle), or to call a second general election.

With 11 per cent of the vote in the last general election, the Communists could easily hold the balance if, as expected, the balance between the two main parties, the Socialists and the centre-right New Democracy party, is narrowed at the weekend.

Mr. Papandreu has discovered that the Communists are turning their big guns against him rather than New Democracy and that the party is hoping to steal votes from Pasok. The Prime Minister said win a decisive role in the next

parliament despite an electoral law which, they believe, will deprive them of a fair share of seats.

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Last farewell to a contaminated island

PAUL BROWN, aboard Rainbow Warrior, in the Marshall Islands, on the final, sad flight from US A-bomb fallout

Mavenarik Kehenik, aged 68, had elected to be the last to leave the atoll. Even then, she had only left after a promise from Senator Jettin Anjin that he would bring her body back when she was dead to be buried in the island's tiny graveyard next to her husband.

She was on the island at the time of bombs and remembers the terror of it as the multiple explosions filled the western sky. She remembers the fallout she thought was flour, which turned yellow in water, and turned the palms of her hands black when she touched it. She remembers the sickness that followed, the skin burns, the shock of everyone's hair falling out.

Since then she has seen the new illnesses among her people, including children, then unborn. The islanders

never experienced them before the tests. At times she has left the island to live with friends. "Although I love this place, I always feel sick when I return," she said.

The Rongalap people had planned to take their pigs and chickens with them to their new home but they were stopped from doing so by the man who gave them their new island home, Kenja Turner. He said it was wrong to bring contaminated animals and he would give them new stock.

The move has taken 12 days of unceasing work. The ship was loaded four times in Rongalap using Greenpeace inflatable boats and the village "boom-booms." This is a Marshalese name for any boat with an outboard motor in this case a

communally-owned cabin cruiser.

Unloading took longer than Greenpeace had bargained for. Lines of Marshalese stood waist-deep in the water to pass their belongings over their heads hand to hand to shore. The operation was both hard and dangerous, sometimes continuing despite rough seas.

At the end, hardly anyone on board was without an injury, although the biggest damage was needed for the French TV cameraman who fell out of his bunk.

Glen Aitaley, an anthropologist who speaks Marshalese, said the struggles of the people were just beginning. They were used by the Americans as guinea pigs to study the effects of fallout and they still studied. They had become dependent on American aid and now because of their continued sickness, are forced from their homes for the sake of their children. That is like taking their souls.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Picasso damaged

AUSTRALIA will compensate Pablo Picasso's daughter, Mariana, for damage caused by National Gallery official to one of her father's paintings, the Three Skulls. The official tore the painting with a screwdriver. The same Melbourne gallery broke a 2,000-year-old Chinese sword in 1982. — Reuter.

Bhopal offer

THE UNION Carbide Company has increased its compensation offer for victims of India's poison gas disaster to \$300 million, an Indian newspaper said in New Delhi yesterday. The Calcutta Telegraph said that the offer was made during negotiations between Union Carbide and the Indian Government. — Reuter.

Priests die

A FRENCH missionary was killed and an Irish missionary kidnapped by UNITA rebels in Angola three days ago, the Roman Catholic Congregation of the Holy Spirit said in Lisbon yesterday. The Irish priest, the order named the missionaries as Jean-Etienne Wozniak and John Kingston. — Reuter.

Sabotage denied

SOUTH Africa yesterday denied that its covert operations in northern Angola were aimed at sabotage and suggested that Angola had forced a confession from a South African soldier captured last week. Angola killed two commandos and says soldiers were trying to sabotage oil installations. — Reuter.

Drug conviction

A FEDERAL jury in Hartford, Connecticut convicted two Frenchmen and a Briton of a drug-conspiracy yesterday. They were arrested at sea with 8,175 pounds of marijuana in their sailing boat last autumn. Steven Seward of Bristol; Patrick Quenemer of Morlaix; and Yann Raymond Boedec of Paris each face 10 years in prison. — AP.

Game planned

THE HEAD of the International Chess Federation said yesterday a world title rematch between the champion, Anatoly Karpov, and challenger Gary Kasparov, will start in Moscow on September 2. The match will have a 24-game limit and whoever wins six games or 12.5 points will be declared champion. — Reuter.

Cost inquiry

THE US navy in San Diego is investigating bills from Grumman Aerospace Corporation, to determine why it was charged \$1,200 for two aircraft ashtrays and more than \$800 for two socket wrenches, an official said yesterday. The costs were revealed during an inspection this month. — AP.

Eleven shot

ELEVEN Ghanaians were shot by firing squad last week in a continuing campaign against corruption and dissent. Nine others have been sentenced during the past six days to terms of bank fraud and two to life imprisonment for cocoa smuggling. — Reuter.

Friendly gesture

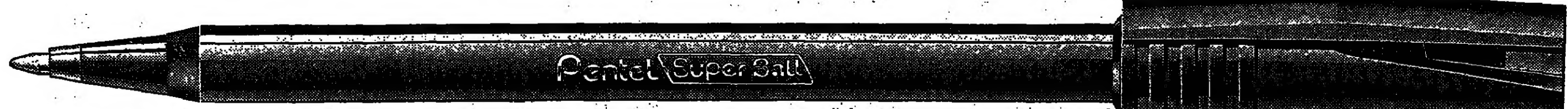
SUDAN'S Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Samuel Abu Bol, said yesterday that Khartoum wanted to continue good relations with Egypt despite its reconciliation with Libya. "We want our relations to grow with Libya and Ethiopia, but relations with Egypt must remain good," he said in Cairo. — Reuter.

Car blast

AN EXPLOSION wrecked a Syrian embassy car outside the Syrian ambassador's residence in the Moroccan capital of Rabat yesterday, officials said. The explosion shattered windows in the ambassador's residence but embassy sources said no one was hurt. — Reuter.

"Pentel Super Ball. The point is, will it also make me a fine writer?"

Frank Miller



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Pentel Super Ball

مكتبة الامم



Carrying their traditional daggers, Sikh boys sit outside the Mehta Chowk shrine in Punjab. The shrine was the headquarters of the dead Sikh preacher and activist, Jarnail Singh Bhindrawale.

Death and defiance among the mudflats

THE BAY of Bengal is still yielding up its dead. Five days after the worst cyclone for 15 years struck the Ganges delta, the tide yesterday was washing bloated corpses ashore on Sandwip, the biggest of Bangladesh's mudflats islands.

The bodies glisten in ones and twos, naked and spread-eagled face-down beside the now calm waters. Their dark chocolate skin has been bleached white. After a few hours, you can smell the stink of putrefaction 40 yards away.

Military burial parties have almost caught up with the known dead, but hundreds, if not thousands, more may never be recovered or identified. The military regime has given lower priority so far to disposing of the thousands of cattle killed by the cyclone and tidal bore. In the worst-affected areas, entire villages were so thoroughly destroyed that you needed an archaeologist's eye to spot where they used to be. Thatched huts were scattered and trampled beyond recognition.

BANGLADESH braced yesterday for a possible second cyclone after last weekend's catastrophe in which up to 10,000 people died. ERIC SILVER, on Sandwip Island, meets survivors who refuse to be moved.

Yet with all stoicism of peasants and fisherfolk the world over, the survivors are staying put. The farmers were already talking yesterday about replanting their paddy fields once the salt water has been pumped away. The first tiny fishing boats were back at sea.

On Uric Char, the most ravaged of the islands, Sahalia, a 70-year-old white-bearded farmer who lost 14 members of his family, said he would go on living there. "Where else would I get land to cultivate?"

Rahima, a 10-year-old girl with a gilded ring in her nostril, lost both parents and five brothers and sisters. She survived for six hours in the sea by clinging to a bamboo pole, the central pillar of the family hut. When the storm abated, she swam to shore. She is now living with cousins, who have adopted her. Rahima, too, was perplexed when asked whether she had thought of going to live somewhere safer. Her family has two-and-a-half acres of good land. You don't give that up so easily in Bangladesh. "If the Government will give us a house," she said, "we shall get by."

Within the limits of Bangladesh's capacity the relief operation is visible and effective. Air force and naval teams were distributing fresh water (our own helicopter

brought in 100 plastic jerrycans), biscuits, rice cakes, and medicine. Military doctors and orderlies were vaccinating everyone against cholera and typhoid.

The survivors complained that they were not getting enough to eat. "We are only getting 20 per cent of what we need," one farmer protested, "but we know the Government doesn't have enough to go round."

Similarly, you find more regret than bitterness at the unexpectedness of the cyclone. Hardly anyone among the 10,000 people who lived on Uric Char owned a radio. They simply did not hear any warning. There is an all too evident case for a more comprehensive alarm system, geared to local conditions.

But perhaps the biggest single improvement would be a crash programme of cyclone shelters. The islands, formed by mud washed down the Ganges, are only just above sea level. The existing earthworks provided little protection against a tidal wave of last weekend's ferocity and the peasant huts are not built to last.

What did survive (saving hundreds of lives), however, were brick and cement shelters erected on 10-foot stilts by the forestry department, which was experimenting with mangrove plantations in Uric Char.

If Bangladesh gets anything like the international assistance President Ershad is seeking, a programme to build more such shelters would be money well spent, especially if last weekend's cyclone turns out to be the beginning of a new period of cyclones, as some experts suspect.

Curfew imposed after Punjab killing of Hindus

From Ajoy Bose in New Delhi

Sikh terrorists struck again in Punjab yesterday, killing two Hindu labourers, and injuring three others, in Ludhiana district.

According to reports from the district, the labourers were gunned down by three Sikh youths riding a scooter. One of them died on the spot, another in a local hospital. Three others, seriously injured in the

shooting, have been admitted to hospital.

Police and paramilitary reinforcements have been sent to the area, and a night curfew has been declared in the Ludhiana district.

The attacks came despite security arrangements made to counter a feared Sikh extremist offensive to mark the first anniversary next week of the storming of the Golden Temple by troops last June.

In addition to the state police, nearly 50 per cent of the paramilitary forces in the country have been deployed in Punjab to maintain peace.

In another precautionary measure, troops yesterday sealed the border with Pakistan, and banned the movement of civilians within 500 yards of the border from dusk to dawn, on reports that extremists are planning to cross over and carry out terrorist

raids. The security forces have been ordered to shoot anyone violating the order banning movement near the border.

Harchand Singh Longowal, the president of the Sikh militant party, the Akali Dal, yesterday called on his party workers to remain peaceful during the anniversary. Sikhs are calling the occasion "genocide week".

He said that his party had always supported Hindu-Sikh unity, which would be maintained at all cost. "Our fight is against the Government for the acceptance of our legitimate demands, and not against Hindus," he said.

An appeal for peace was also issued earlier in the week by the extremist faction of the Akali Dal, led by Baba Joginder Singh, the 82-year-old father of the dead Sikh Zealot, Jarnail Singh Bhindrawale.

Demand for a separate state in Sri Lanka is 'negotiable'

Gandhi ready for talks on Tamil crisis

From David Pallister, in Colombo

President Junius Jayewardene of Sri Lanka is expected to meet the Prime Minister of India, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, next week to discuss a joint approach to the Tamil separatist campaign in the north of the island, according to official sources in Delhi and Colombo.

The sources said that the venue could be Trivandrum in the southern Indian state of Kerala. A preliminary agenda was arranged in Colombo yesterday when the President met the Indian Foreign Minister, Mr Romesh Bhandari, who said last night that he was satisfied with progress made in the talks.

The problems attached to bringing the Tamil guerrilla leaders to the negotiating table are not insurmountable. In an interview in Madras yesterday, Mr S. A. Balasingham, chief spokesman for the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, said he would welcome a peaceful political settlement. It was clear from his remarks that the Tamils' main demand for a separate and sovereign state in the northern and eastern provinces is negotiable.

Mr Balasingham said that the Tamils had peacefully campaigned for years for a federal solution or regional autonomy. He blamed the "intransigence" of the Sri Lankan Government for forcing his people into an armed struggle.

"I wouldn't use the cate-

gory, separate state," he said. "What we have been demanding is the recognition of our people's right to national self-determination. We were pushed into this position by a long history of oppression against our people. It is crucial for us that they (the government) should preserve the right of the Tamil people to live in their historical homelands."

"We would demand from the government of Sri Lanka that they should respect and recognise the traditional homelands of the Tamil people before they recognise the unity and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. We have taken up arms to contain violence perpetrated against us. We are utilising violence to end all violence. We would certainly like a peaceful political settlement."

The Indian Government, which has allowed Tamil guerrilla leaders to operate and train cadres in the Tamil-speaking state of Tamil Nadu, is also pressing for an agreement that falls short of the demand for a separate state.

In return for controlling the insurgents in Tamil Nadu, now made easier by the new Prevention of Terrorism Act, Delhi is initially pressing for substantial concessions for the would have to include control of land use, an abandonment of the Sri Lankan government's resettlement of Sinhalese in the Tamil areas, and probably the right to control internal security.

Zimbabwe poll to be held in July

From Andrew Meldrum in Harare

ZIMBABWE'S first post-independence elections appear to be set for the first week in July, following changes in the election procedure announced yesterday by the Minister of Justice, Mr Eddison Zvobgo.

Mr Zvobgo said that the date of the elections should be announced next week, immediately opening a one-week nomination period, followed by a three-week campaign.

That schedule is a slightly speeded-up one, as the nomination period is shortened by one week. The change was made by a presidential warrant.

"I don't believe the elections are being rushed," said Mr Zvobgo, in response to the opposition criticism of the new, shorter, election procedure. "The prime Minister feels there is no need for delay. Let's get on with it. As far as the Government is concerned, this is 'Operation free and fair elections'."

Mr Zvobgo yesterday met representatives of all Zimbabwe's opposition and minority parties to brief them on the election procedure. The parties at the meeting included Mr Joshua Nkomo's ZAPU, Bishop Mazarirewa's ZANC, the Rev. Nkomo's ZANU-SITHOLE, Mr Ian Smith's Conservative Alliance, and the white independents.

"We wanted to make sure that all parties know how the forthcoming elections

will be held," Mr Zvobgo said. Another meeting with the minority parties would be held next week with the chairman of the Election Directorate Committee, who would brief them on the "nuts and bolts" of how the elections would be held.

Mr Zvobgo also announced that all parties would have to register their election campaign symbols by Tuesday of next week, so that they can appear on the ballot.

The symbols have been a matter of controversy, as the Government earlier this month banned a symbol of Mr Nkomo's ZAPU, a sweeping eagle, and of the Sithole party, a flaming torch. Many other powerful symbols, such as the lion, leopard, cheetah, and birds of prey, were also banned—a move seen as a protective measure by Zanu to prevent their symbol, a crowing cock, from being overpowered by other symbols.

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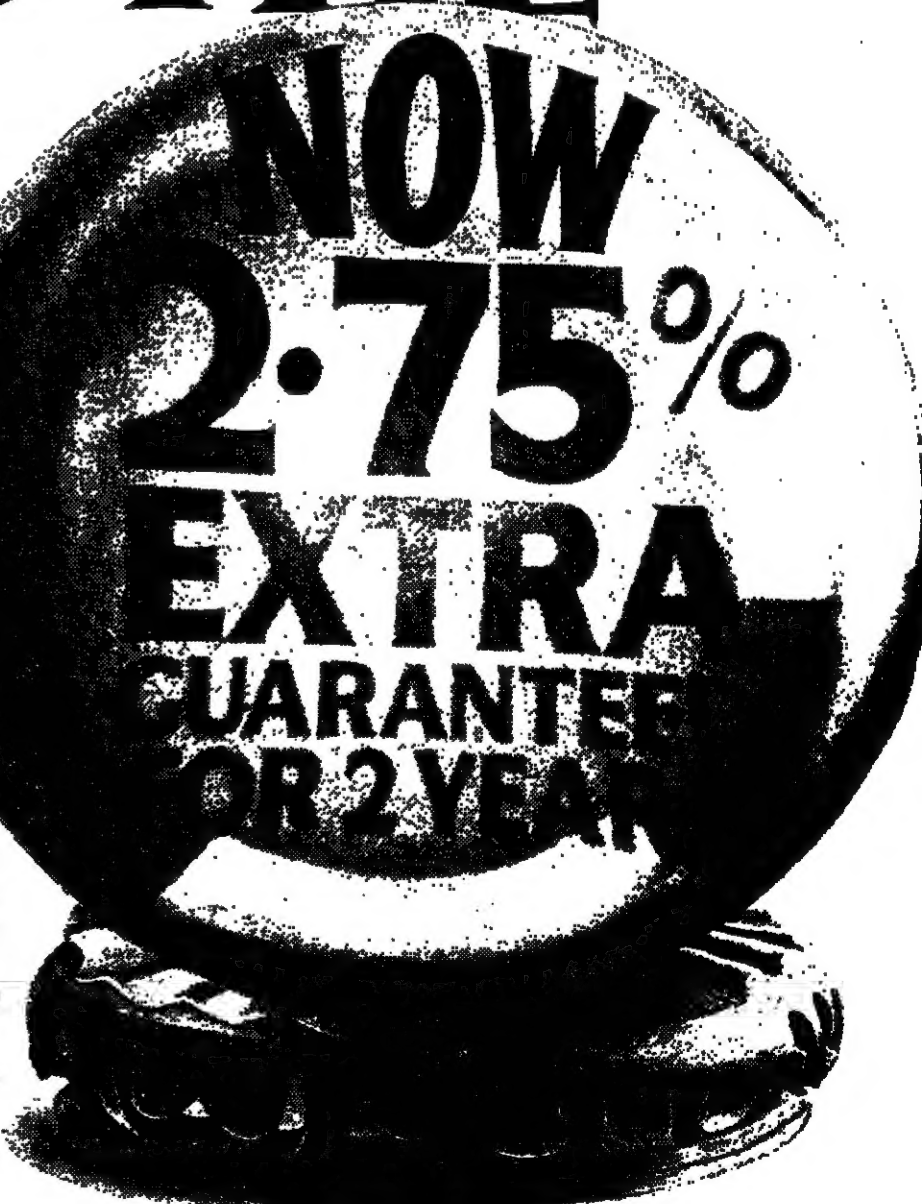
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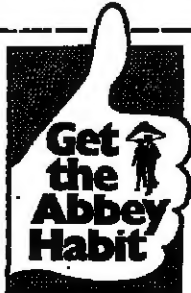
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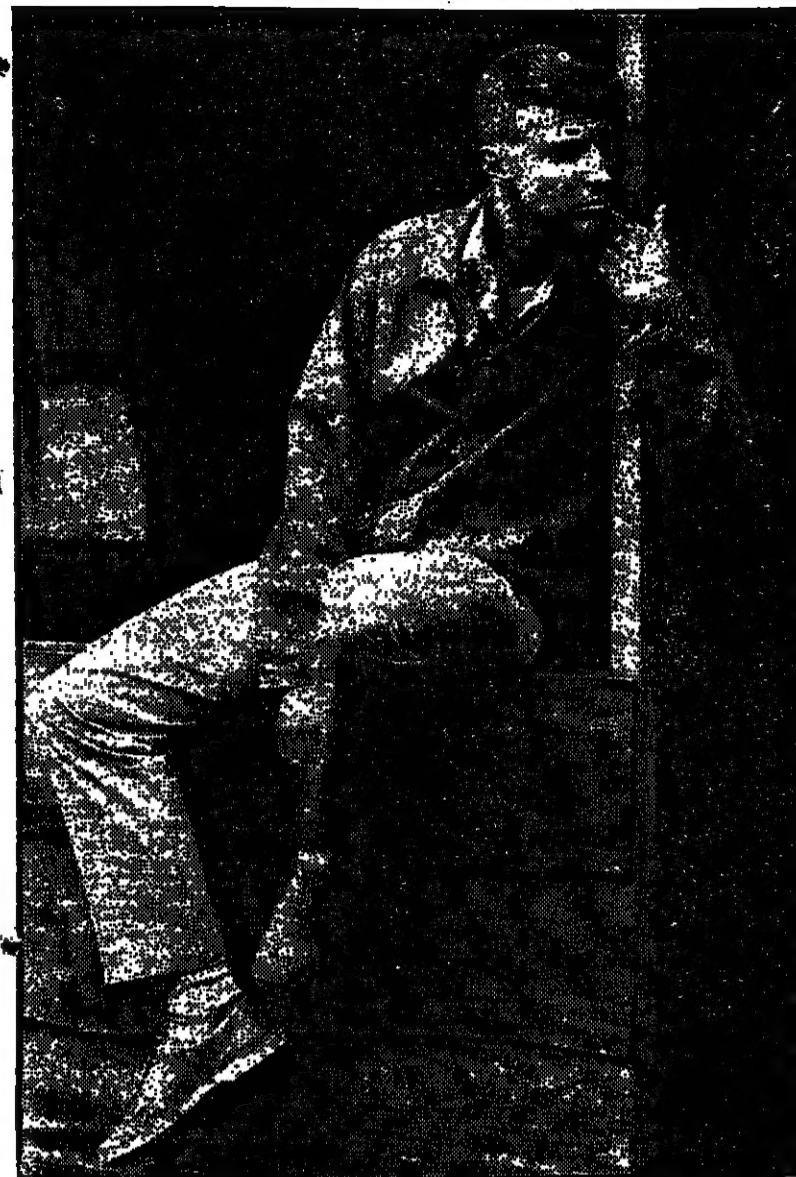
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Top left: Black and white, polyester/viscose jacket, 36-46in. chest, £25; black polyester/viscose pleated trousers (also brown, light blue) 30-38in. waist, £18.99; bright yellow cotton jumper (also assorted colours) 36-46in. chest, £13.99 — all from selected stores.

Top centre: Blue, white, jade cotton mix styled sweatshirt (also grey, red, white) s, m, l, xl, £12.99; blue cotton mix jogger pants (also grey, red) s, m, l, xl £9.99 — both from major stores.

Left: Bright red cotton blouson jacket (also white, blue) 36-44in. chest, £19.99; multi-check cotton mix short sleeve shirt (black, white, blue, red, orange check only) 14½-17 collar, £11.99; beige polyester/cotton pleated trousers (also

grey) 30-38in. waist, £16.99 — all from selected stores. Grey wool/nylon Arvyl socks (also blue, beige) £1.75 from major stores.

Right: Khaki leather blouson jacket (also navy, grey) 36-44in., £29.95; khaki and white cotton/polyester short sleeved shirt (also blue check) 14½-17 collar, £11.99; grey and white cotton mix sweater, 36-44in., £15.99; grey cotton jeans, 30-38in. waist, £14.99; khaki leather shoes (also navy, grey) 6-11, £15.99 — all from selected stores.

All clothes by Marks & Spencer.

Photographed at Penninghills Park Hotel, Bagshot, Surrey, courtesy of Prestige Hotels.

Pictures by Frank Martin

Marks and sparklers

The old high street giant has usually been content to plod along after the trendsetters, picking up some handsome profits in their wake. But not any longer, reports Brenda Polan. They're going to start setting the trend themselves

ANDREW STONE has a nifty way with an extended metaphor. Marks & Spencer is, he declares, the Starship Enterprise, a huge, complex battleship, propelled and locked on course by its own enormous momentum.

If parts of the structure have become obsolete, the ship cannot be stopped to enable its crew to tinkering. It must be rebuilt in flight. If its course is to be changed, then the captain must work out a way to do it by using its own momentum, not fighting it. "That," he concludes with a triumphant grin, "is what we have been doing and are in the process of doing. Consequently, Starship Enterprise is moving to Warp Factor Seven."

Lord Rayner, the starship's chairman, did not phrase it nearly so lyrically when he presented Marks & Spencer's end-of-year (its hundredth) figures this month. "We look forward with confidence to the future," he said soberly before going on to outline an expansion plan costing £500 million — the equivalent of 10 new stores or a 10 per cent increase in the company's UK selling space. Some of this will be taken up by the company's new commitment to out-of-town megastores (the first, at the Metro Centre, Gateshead, will open in late 1986). Ten years ago M&S made a policy decision against such developments on the grounds that they would hasten inner city decay. But even the country's largest and oldest department store has changed its mind. It isn't abandoning its city centre sites, though. Stores

are in the process of being expanded or opened in Sutton, Surrey; Sutton Coldfield, Swindon, Southport, Greenock, Ayr, Maidenhead, Carlisle, Grimsby, Dunfermline, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Reading. A further 23 locations, to be announced, will follow.

Lord Rayner also reported record sales and a pre-tax profit of £303 millions on a turnover of £2.2 billions with menswear, lingerie, footwear, homeware and books showing growth while ladieswear, a crucially large sector of the company's business and the sector under most pressure from high street competitors, flagged.

Reluctantly, measures are being taken to "improve the appeal of the ranges." Starship Enterprise, beset by its enemies' newer, lighter, more manoeuvrable craft is re-arming in flight. It has lost ground on the menswear front but it may be in time to hold its position on the menswear front and, it is, says Andrew Stone, attacking on childrenswear, an area where competition has yet to hot up.

Andrew Stone is team leader of one of Starship Enterprise's most important rebuilding crews. His actual new position is marketing executive for men's and children's wear, a title which alone reveals just how rattled Marks & Spencer has been by recent developments.

For marketing was never something M&S felt it had to do. With a complacency born of undeniable superiority, it always assumed that the

quality and value of its goods spoke for themselves.

Andrew Stone knows that public whim, or fashion as we like to call it, is something which a massive clothing retail chain has to tangle with. "But we can never compromise on quality or value," he says, "and that is what makes it much harder for us. However, we have decided that we can no longer get sufficient cohesion by following

the rest of the market. We have to lead."

"But bear in mind the sheer size of our business. The menswear business alone is worth £24 billion. There are many companies with a turnover that huge. We sell more men's white underwear than Next's whole turnover amounts to. It is very easy to make a design statement when, like Next, you are aiming at a small, tightly focused market."

"When you are selling 15 per cent of all the menswear sold in the UK, you have to make a design statement to young fashion-conscious men, to middle aged men in every conceivable occupation, to retired men — and to their wives and mothers, girl friends and sisters stuck for a Christmas present. More than a quarter of all M&S men's sweaters are sold to women in the month before Christmas."

The results of the design re-think are hinted at in the current spring and summer range but stated loud and clear in the clothes for next autumn. They remain classic in concept but the colours, the fabrics, and most importantly, cut and proportion are in the vanguard of fashion. Not one jot of quality in materials or manufacture has been sacrificed and the prices are astonishing. Certainly, one agrees warmly,

something to shout about.

And that's the next step. "In all our history," says Andrew Stone, "we have done things modestly without type. We have said that what we offer is the best in the high street but we said it quietly and, since the high street was a quiet place, we were heard and believed. Now the high street is very noisy."

In order to raise its voice above the rest, Marks & Spencer has first looked to its stores. It is not true that they have remained unchanged for 90 years, but the changes have been so tastefully imperceptible, so wedded to the principles of functionalism, that it might as well be true.

"We have now accepted that ambience matters," says Andrew, "that it is a retailer's responsibility to make shopping a pleasant experience. It is also a retailer's responsibility to provide guidance. Long before Next for Men came along with co-ordinated wardrobes of separates, we were garment-dyeing sweaters to match jeans, sweaters to go with slacks, buying tweed for jackets to go with gaberdine trousers. But you wouldn't really have known it since the matching halves were in different parts of the store. From now on we will be grouping co-ordinates together and we will be making much greater use of display."

His department is also producing a series of glossy colour brochures for distribution in the stores. The one for spring (sub-titled "We've got it all together!") photo-

graphed by Bob Gotthard, one of the world's top menswear photographers, not only gives customers welcome clues about how to put the clothes together, it also starts to establish what M&S, with its determinedly utilitarian approach to its customers' needs, has always lacked: an image, a flavour, a sartorial identity.

It is not one with which your King's Road posers will identify, but it seems to exclude no one else — a fact which should indicate a safe and dilute mix. Astonishingly, it is nothing of the kind. It is a brilliantly controlled, sophisticated, and classic fashion look. As Andrew Stone might have said, but didn't (the all-pervasive modesty even gets to such as he: "Eat your heart out, Giorgio. But he does concede: "What we are finding out, now that we have been given our head, is that we never realised before just what a talented lot we are here at Marks & Spencer."

Boastfulness leads to the subject of advertising, another thing Marks & Spencer is not given to doing. "Why not? The problem is that the options are so many and so enormous, it is a question of cutting them down. I am," (goes but the man loves a metaphor), "a virgin in terms of marketing and the enormous potential here is attracting all the wolves. We will be in no hurry to fling ourselves into the arms — or the teeth — of any of them. We do exactly what is necessary to stay ahead of the competition and to make sure everyone knows it."

Style file

IT'S a discerning shopper who can easily select goods from the massive tonnes of most mail order catalogues. The problem of diversity shouldn't arise with Jennifer Hocking, a company offering a small selection of well coordinated good quality clothes by post. Jennifer Hocking, one-time fashion editor of *Harpers & Queen*, started designing and making her own clothes during her first career as a model when she couldn't find clothes long enough to fit her tall frame. When she left fashion journalism Jennifer started producing maternity dresses for *Great Expectations* in the Fulham Road, and two years ago founded her own mail order company. "The clothes I produce are for women who want a smart, inter-changeable wardrobe without the fuss of shopping all around town to find them."

The fabrics, plain, striped, and floral prints, are 100 per cent cotton, come in an assortment of colourways and most designs are available in more than one fabrication. A fully comprehensive list detailing prices, sizes (bust 32-41in.; waist 24-31in.; hips 34-41in.), all colourways and a set of fabric swatches are sent with the clearly illustrated leaflet. A money refund is available if unwashed goods are returned within 7 days. For catalogue write to Jennifer Hocking & Co., P.O. Box 240, 75 Berwick Street, London W1A 2AU.

GILLIAN ROWE

Left: Cotton all-in-one (black, blue, red, café, white, mint, pink) £24.
Right: Impregnated cotton shower proof coat (olive, beige, red) £58.



The New Georgians are not the latest trad jazz band... would that they were

WHEN the British tire of disenchanted social class — which is seldom, whether they are for or against it — they turn their obsession and focus instead on tribes. This, they believe, is less contentious. Tribes give a fashionable, flexible impression of Britain; open membership is defined by what you wear (woolly cap or green wellies), yet exclusive because, paradoxically, you can't join just by wearing the gear.

Tribes exist in all income groups — from football hoolies to Sloane Rangers — but do not cross them. New formations emerge all the time — Teds, Mods, Skinheads, Punks among the Nooves, Sloanes, and Debs, among the upper middle class, to pop sociologists and journalists, who are often the same. The emergence of the two latest sub-groups is due entirely to

hacks, and one of these groups is composed mostly of them, which shows how desperate the game has become.

All tribes are self-regarding. Young Fogies are self-assembling as well. According to the YF Handbook, edited by Suzanne Lowry, its members are mostly contributors to the *Spectator*. YF apply encapsulates their conservatism in matters of dress (preferably dead men's tweeds); habitat (ideally, a restored rectory); transport (a Bentley or a bike); and religion (Anglican revivalists). In politics, they are mostly romantic Tories.

New tribes are speedily spotted and pinned down — a tribute to assiduous hacks, pursuing the trivial — but evidence, too, of the need of people in one social block to break up its sameness. Among youth, cults, changes in fashion and music, which occur frequently, are the convenient nuclei for new groupings. There is an element of manipulation, if not coercion, in the case of the kids, by the

Malcolm McLarens of showbiz.

Middle class tribes change, too, but for slightly different reasons. Both types of tribe are formed as a reaction to the economic consequences of the political situation. The elaborate dress of Punks is a painstaking ritual to give point to the enforced leisure of the recession. Sloanes, however, whom Peter York first spotted ten years ago, have managed to hold on to their labels and their values — of decency, elitism, and loyalty — in spite of the slump.

Tribes always close ranks, even so Sloanes have been associated with the emergence of several sub-groups. The Nooves (Nouveaux Riches) — the would-be joiners who were rejected, and so settled for imitating the Sloanes. Sloanes are old money. Since the Nooves made their in businesses such as property and franchising, they assume they can buy their way into Sloane-dom; only to find they can't.

"Where did you buy that necklace?" an admiring Noove asks a Sloane. The reply is: "Actually, it was my mother's."

You wouldn't hear such a damning put-down from a Young Fogey. YFs are much too political and too well read to remain (or to be) Sloanes. They have emerged by disagreeing with certain sections of the Sloanes code book, and emphasising others. The New Right has given them a place in the political spectrum, but basically they are a bunch of individuals, though flattered by the YF label. They are picky and pushy and mushy.

The Handbook describes their politics: "They are small-c conservatives, and loath being called Right or any other wing. They have an anarchic streak and love perversity and mischief. Some have even boasted about voting Labour. Others prefer being labelled as latter-day Whigs, although their Whiggy-fogey, apart from happily emphasising their 18th-

century aura, seems mainly to take the form of the country, and verbally abusing Mrs Thatcher and members of her Cabinet. They particularly dislike her brand of corner shop 'ordinary' Toryism."

However, the Sloanes have spawned a yet newer tribe: the New Georgians. They get the flavour of the month treatment in the new issue of *Harpers & Queen*, which always pokes the gentlest of fun at new tribes (which it is quick to spot) while taking care not to alienate them, since many are readers of the magazine. A headline suggests the NGs might be stern stuff. It asks "is conservatism emerging in Britain as the new moderating political force?"

This looniness shows the bankruptcy of the self-seeking middle class eccentrics, who form the tribes of the Right. The NGs are into buying Georgian and Neo-Georgian properties and somehow believe that, as Harpers puts

it, "conservation cuts across class, and conservation cuts across race, conservationists always hang on, conservationists understand infrastructure, where the architecture is."

The matriarch of the NGs is an eccentric Anglo-Irish woman, Magira Guinness, who with her cronies have been restoring houses in the East End, particularly Spitalfields — London's traditional refuge area — as the magazine notes. The NGs are passionate about the disposed all right — so long as they are properties, not people. As a tribe, they are as full of folly as they come, putting the architectural clock back 200 years.

Dual membership of tribes often occurs. An architect who builds mostly in the Neo-Georgian style, and who is cited with approval by his fellow NGs, is Quinlan Terry. He features also in the *New Fogey Handbook* where his home is described; he "has painted trompe l'oeil Doric columns either side of his

age, with the words of the 97th psalm in Latin round the frieze. Terry keeps all modern materials out of his house as far as possible: as babies, his five children were all bathed in a papier mache bath."

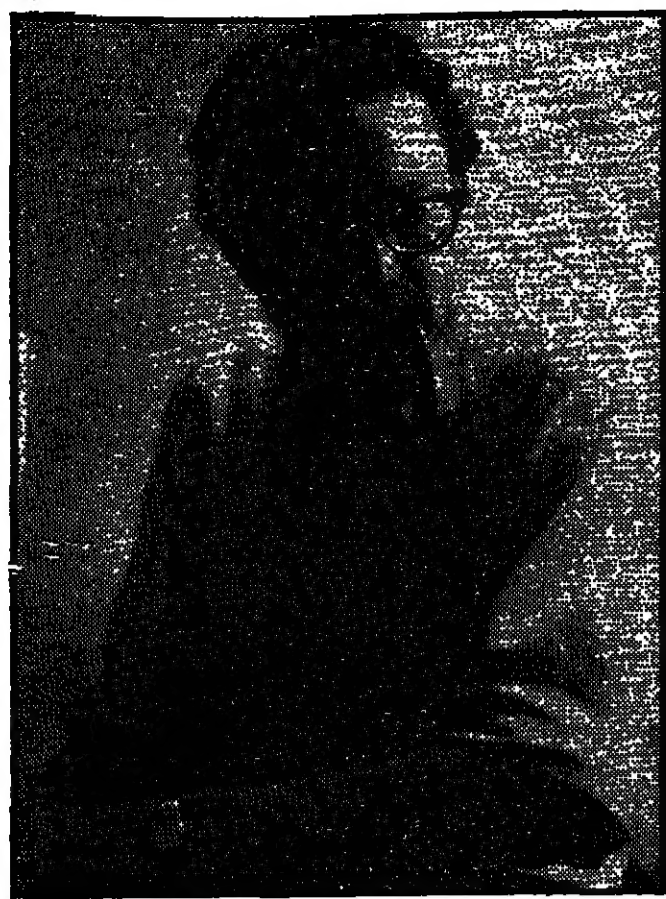
Terry has a successful practice and is influential in the architectural debate, attacking Modern, Post Modern, and High-Tech trends. In this, he illustrates the dangers which the middle-class tribes represent. As games played within a class, the Nooves, the YFs, and the NGs can be laughed at for their self-importance, their venality, and their little Englander mentality. But we should be aware of taking seriously their views transposed to the larger world outside their infant fantasies, whether they are about politics, philosophy, economics, or the arts.

Youth tribes are harmless, in that their members grow out of them almost without exception: the few remaining hippies and Teddy Boys are now crazies in their thirties

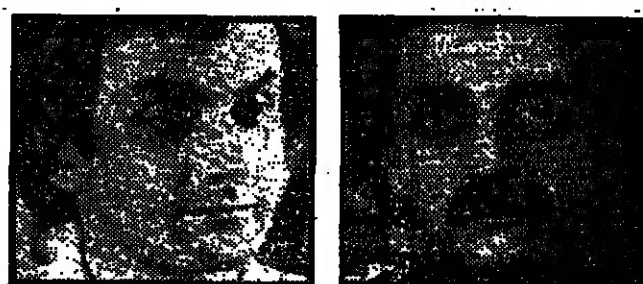
and forties. The tribes of the professionals consist of what probably will be life members: their eccentricity will flourish as the years go by. In lean political times, their meanness and their madness might be seen as respectable bores.

Abroad, Britain's tribalism is taken seriously. Time magazine made this theme its cover story 18 months ago, and speculated whether the alienated, jobless young and the way they behaved and thought, would set a major social pattern in Europe. Then time added this definition: "The tribal movement is, consciously or not, a symbolic throwback to the original tribes of Britain. Seven centuries before Christ, the Damnonii, Durotriges, Brigantes, Dobunni, and Corieltaeni dominated the yet unscattered isle."

If you want to know what became of them, try the YF Handbook (published by Javelin Books at £3.95) or read Harpers.



Harold Shapinsky at home



Who had ever heard of Harold Shapinsky before Salman Rushdie and Tariq Ali (above) started to proclaim him as an undiscovered genius? Waldemar Januszczak takes a cool look at Shapinsky's art and its champions.

The art of HYPE

I have just read two of the most careless, ignorant, hype-ridden, opportunistic, manipulative and just plain silly articles about the world of art I have ever come across. The first was written by Tariq Ali and the second by Salman Rushdie. Both concerned a hitherto unknown American painter called Harold Shapinsky whom Ali and Rushdie are busily trying to force into prominence.

"It looks very much as though the history of Abstract Expressionist painting will have to be rewritten," opines that well known authority on modern painting, Salman Rushdie in the Observer. "A new name, it appears, must henceforth be mentioned in the same breath as those of Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning — the name of Harold Shapinsky."

Before we come to the story proper ("surely one of the most extraordinary in the history of modern art") we should deal with its background, the force that drives it: the myth of the undiscovered genius. The myth is a by-product of the emergence of the dealer system. There were no "undiscovered geniuses" around when the central relationship in the world of art was between artists and the patrons who commissioned work from them. In those days if you did not make yourself noticed you did not work. You were not an artist.

With the rise of the dealer system the emphasis switched from the artist as a

worker to the art-work as a commodity. The potential value of the commodity impressed outsiders. In the minds of greedy opportunists art began to be perceived as some kind of golden egg, a fortune on a plate; providing you could find the golden goose, the market was there in which to sell its produce. And so the search was launched for "the undiscovered genius."

It ought to go without saying that the "undiscovered genius" exists only in the feverish imaginations of greedy men. The art world is not the Klondike fondly imagined by outsiders. Most importantly of all art is not a self-contained golden egg; the miraculous product of genius, which can be laid in isolation. Great art is the product of great labour (as a visit to the Degas print exhibition currently showing at the Hayward underlines). Great art is locked in an up-to-the-minute relationship with the society around it.

Although there are many examples in the history of art of significant artists whose careers were forgotten after their deaths there are no examples at all of artists who conceived themselves as the present making important contributions. None. The drive for relevance as well as recognition is and always has been a crucial component of the significant artist.

If Rembrandt had not been aware enough of the latest fashions to take

lessons from Caravaggio, if he had not moved from Leyden to Amsterdam, if he had thrust himself into the prominence he would have remained a provincial painter all his life. If Van Gogh had not struggled there and then with the language of Impressionism he would not have metamorphosed into an artist of greatness. Great artists discover themselves. They do not wait for speculators to do it for them. Only poor, second-rate, irrelevant artists do that.

But we have drifted away from our story proper, the Harold Shapinsky story which according to Ali and Rushdie begins at a cocktail party in Chicago where Akumal Ramachander, a teacher of elementary English at an agricultural college in Bangalore (by the time he reaches Tariq Ali's article in Time Out he has become Professor of English at an Agricultural University in Bangalore) is accosted by a young man who turns out to be David Shapinsky, the painter's son. It takes no more than a few slides to convince our teacher of elementary English that Shapinsky is a genius, undiscovered of course.

For what Shapinsky had been a practising Abstract Expressionist, completely ignored by the "mandarins," "kings" and "merchants" of the New York art world, so poor that he had to work on thick paper instead of canvas. The painter's new fairy godfather makes a bet with David Shapinsky that within



A detail from Shapinsky's Waldorf Cafeteria 1947

12 months he will get Harold Shapinsky a major exhibition in Europe, and that the Encyclopedia Britannica will have to rewrite its section on Abstract Expressionism to make room for a neglected master.

Ramachander flies to New York where he comes across what Rushdie calls "the wall," a lack of enthusiasm quite rightly expressed by dealers to discourage cowboys and get-rich quick merchants from pestering the art world. For the myth to reach its proper conclusion, for Chiderella to go to the ball, Ramachander must break through "the wall."

To do this he enlists the help of a minor officer at London's Tate Gallery, and more importantly, Tariq Ali and Salman Rushdie. The second part of our story, like the first, begins at a dinner party — we learn in Tariq Ali's article — thrown by Salman Rushdie, and attended by Ali and Farukh Dhoty, a commissioning editor at Channel Four.

Rushdie tells them about Shapinsky, a commissioning editor at Channel Four, the painter from Tariq Ali's newly formed production company. (When the programme goes out on June 2 discriminating viewers might well ask why Channel Four has not yet given us a film about Pollock or de Kooning with whom Shapinsky is so ludicrously compared?) A Minor London Dealer agrees to host a Shapinsky show, pleased, no doubt,

at the amount of publicity he will receive from television and well-known literary figures alike. Shapinsky's pictures go on sale for £20,000 each. I receive phone calls from Tariq Ali and Channel Four. My editor asks me if I've heard of Harold Shapinsky. The type is on.

Shapinsky we now learn has moved to England. Ramachander has given up being a teacher of elementary English and agreed to accept a percentage of every picture which Shapinsky sells. Where in all this nonsense does the real meaning and value of art come in? The Harold Shapinsky exhibition is exactly what we would expect from a minor Abstract Expressionist who has worked long and hard in timid isolation: unoriginal, nostalgic, small, inept, occasionally charming, sometimes beautiful.

It is good but not great art. Still, as the market knows, genuine early de Koonings are now beginning to run out. I should like to add that "every important art gallery in Europe is queuing up to buy Harold Shapinsky's work, as claimed at least not the worst I have seen. Neither have I been able to trace the identity of the 24-year-old dealer in a Silver Rolls-Royce who, according to Tariq Ali, offered to buy up all of Shapinsky's paintings, unseen, for £100,000 each. Could we have some more information about him please?" Harold Shapinsky at the Waldorf Cafeteria, Cork Street, until June 25.

Robin Denselow reviews on the latest rock releases

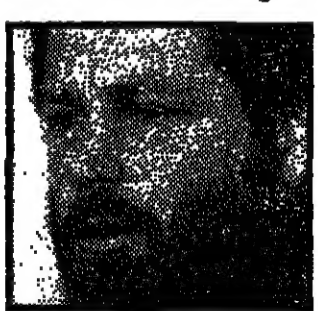
New order of merit

NEW ORDER'S image, as the leading exponents of bleak Manchester nihilism (as opposed to melodic Liverpool romanticism), is now clearly out of date. With *Low-Life* (Factory) they have moved one step further away from wrist-slashing doom music, to diverse and even epic styles that hint at anything from country music to Lou Reed, grand film themes to electro-pop, while still retaining their highly distinctive sound.

The moody, swirling keyboards, the driving guitar, and the solid beat, are still present, but now actually mixed with a sense of fun — surely unthinkable in the early, post-Joy Division days — and a sense of the spectacular. So the opening *Love Vigilantes* "actually sounds like a good and gutsy country-rocker, if with a solid electronic beat behind the rough and ready vocals, and the closing *Face Up* has elements of a country dance tune, if only as a setting for more sombre vocals.

In-between, the band explore anything from a grand and pretty instrumental, *Elegia*, to a light, swinging and rhythmic piece, *Sooner Than You Think*, or (the best track on the album) the brooding and exhilarating *Sunrise*. Forget the old cult

image: this band deserve a very wide following. The Beach Boys: (Caribou). On their first new studio album in five years, released next week, the grand old band of Los Angeles lurch into the Eighties with help from Steve Levine, best known for his work with Culture Club, and songs from none other than Boy George and Stevie Wonder. The Beach Boys do, of course, have a resident genius of their own, Brian Wilson, who is on varied form here. The four songs of



Resident genius: Beach Boy Brian Wilson

his range from the gloriously tuneful, rolling *I'm So Lonely* and the gentle *It's Just A Matter Of Time*, to what sounds like an old-style Beach Boys hit, *California Calling*, which has all the old harmony tricks and every California cliché from surfers to custom cars.

There is nothing here to match the great Beach Boys work of the past, but it's no disgrace, largely because their "harmony" work is as fine as ever. Levine has dressed up their sound with subtle use of electronics, and

the new interest in white soul provides unexpected variety. The Boy George song *Passing Friend* is tunefully down-beat, while Stevie Wonder's *I Do Love You* (actually featuring Wonder) would have probably sounded better recorded by him alone.

The *Style Council*: My Favourite Shop (Polydor). A vast improvement on the rather patchy *Cafe Bleu*, this second album from Paul Weller and Mick Talbot is an assured and varied blend of the light and bitter — tuneful and gentle funk, soul and latin styles mixed with political fury. 9 of the 14 tracks here contain political or social messages (and there are even more on the Council's best-selling EP), but Weller takes care never to sloganise too often. There are, admittedly, a few lines like "the only thing they'll understand is wall dancing their backs," but for the most part he presents his views of the policies of Her Majesty's Government in terms of angry little stories.

So the opening *Homebreakers* (with vocals by Mick) is a funky tragedy about the search for work, while on *All Gone Away*, a tale of "how devastating a loss is set to a Latin shuffle, and on *A Stones Throw Away*, a string quartet backs a song of oppression in Chile, Poland, Johannesburg and South Africa. Elsewhere, *Henry Henry* appears on a simple moral tale about prejudice, *The Stand-Up Comic's Instruction*, and there are recordings of *Freddie Fender* on *Down By The Seine*. In all, an intriguing, brave and varied album.

Lone Justice (Geffen). Available next week, and already preceded by a single, *Tom Petty* says *Way To Go*. *Wicked*, this is the debut set from the most heavily-promoted of the current LA country-rockers. It's easy to see why the industry are so excited, for they are more mainstream than "roots-rockers" like the Blasters (whom I prefer), echoing as they do both Dylan and Petty.

Still, they are a distinctive band, largely because of the shrill, brash approach of singer Maria McKee. This worked fine on rolling country-rockers like *After The Flood*, or more raucous good-time, cow-punk pieces like *Working Late*, and less well on more sensitive, gentle country ballads like *Don't Toss Us Away*.

Hugh Masekela: Waiting For The Rain (Jive Africa). In Botswana, just safely over the border from his native South Africa, Masekela has recorded a worthy follow-up to last year's excellent *Techno-Bush*. Once again he features both as horn virtuoso and vocalist on a collection of jazz and African pieces that range from his slickly-produced fusions of reggae and electronics (as on the opening treatment of Fela Kuti's *Lady*), through to sections of his own superb horn work.

MERMAID

Michael Billington

Breaking The Silence

PLAYS change with their spaces, and Stephen Poliakoff's *Breaking The Silence* is no exception. At The Pit we seemed to be three inside a shuddering railway-carriage shunting back and forth in post-Revolutionary Russia bearing an anachronistic aristocrat and his family. At the Mermaid the carriage is larger, the play more of a spectacle and a little slower to get off the ground. But it remains a compelling piece in which we see a domestic revolution taking place amongst people hovering on the edge of great events.

Re-casting also alters the nature of the play. The central figure, Nikolai Pesikoff, is a dandified Jewish eccentric who blithely disregards his job as telephone surveyor of the northern district in order to pursue his invention of amplified cinematic sound.

As originally played by David Hare, the play was a compelling piece in which we see a domestic revolution taking place amongst people hovering on the edge of great events. Re-casting also alters the nature of the play. The central figure, Nikolai Pesikoff, is a dandified Jewish eccentric who blithely disregards his job as telephone surveyor of the northern district in order to pursue his invention of amplified cinematic sound.

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Mr Howard certainly essays a languorous, blue-blooded disdain as he leans on his stick as if incapable of motion but there is something of a man involved in a race against time every bit as urgent to him as Lenin's race to make the Revolution work. He views interruptions of his experiments like a breach of loyalty, pores over his designs with insane fervour and lets his voice hit a rising Shakespearean crescendo when he discovers his optics lenses have been smothered.

It is a plausible, beautifully detailed study of an impossible genius; and when Mr Howard condemns the English for "no energy of ideas" it is with the certainty of one for whom invention is the mother of necessity.

His performance also gives Gemma Jones as his wife, Eugenia, the chance to develop logically from high-chinned duchess grandeur to festering fury at her years of neglect; it is a precisely calculated performance that makes you believe in the character's swift psychological transitions. Jenny



Independence and affection: Jenny Agutter at the Mermaid. Picture by Douglas Jeffery.

Agutter also lends the maid Polya an interesting mix of gathering independence and suppressed sexual affection for his bizarre menage and John Kane is exuberantly right as a humane Commissioner. Ron Daniels' production has lost pace in the move to the Mermaid but the play has the fascination of a hermetic family drama proceeding in odd parallel to events on the world stage.

SPITALFIELDS

Michael John White

Hilliard Ensemble

THE Spitalfields Festival has always been a strangely sleek affair—the tone set, disregarding makeshift circumstances, by a glossy programme and the sort of people you find in the coffee queue at concert intervals.

But sleekness isn't necessarily a virtue. Not at least when it borders on the exquisite, which is a territory the festival has begun to explore now that it's scheduled opera (once the heart of the enterprise) has become a sort of appendix, detached from the main body of the event.

The opera this year is Handel's *Alcina*; and with a production by Frank Corsaro and quality casting, it promises to be a big attraction. But that doesn't mean until mid-July, and meanwhile, for the festival proper, there is a week of concerts so discreet, so polite and so respectful of the fact that they dare show their faces in a wicked world. Accepting that the week ends with Messiaen and involves highly respected artists, the fact remains that generally this year's festival programme is arcane or low key, sometimes both.

Tuesday's two evening concerts were fairly representative of what I mean: the first a song recital by Stephen Varcoe with the pia-

LEEDS

Gerald Lerner

Master Singers

ANYONE will tell you that the Master Singers is a big opera which ought to be done in a big way. On the other hand, it should not be beyond the imagination of the directors of smaller companies to accommodate it in smaller houses and perhaps even to illuminate different aspects of it.

After all, it is a comedy, much of it on a domestic level. The Czech director Ladislav Stros, who has had the problem of staging Opera North's biggest production so far, seems to see it as a Bartered Bride of Nuremberg.

In its carefully spelled out way, it is effective enough until the second scene of the third act. The beginning—in a Gothic church interior cleverly designed by Vladimir Nyvit to make the most of stage space—is promising, but the designs decline in inspiration from scene to scene, ending up with an exterior setting with no illusion of breath and little depth just when they are both most needed.

We are, on the other hand, prepared for the contradiction of the staging by the music. In an interpretation which is particularly strong on ceremony, David Lloyd-Jones clearly not inclined to play down any bourgeois element in the score. His chorus is magnificent and the orchestra plays well for him but everything is so near and so close to the Grand Theatre, Leeds, that there is little perspective in the music, not much atmosphere and not enough poetry either.

The contradictions are reflected in the casting too. There is Marie Slorach, for example, who as Marek in Opera North's *Bartered Bride* is an appropriate choice for Eva here. But for all her simplicity, and sincerity, her vocal resources are limited and she is outshone by the over splendid Magdalena of Della Jones. Then there is Denes Striny as Walter, a tenor by no means heroic enough to offend against the domestic orientation of the production but also so puny in voice and so insecure in his staidish knightly postures that he carries no conviction. The part might have been better sung by the David in this production, Bonaventura Bottani.

David is characterised by Stros as tirelessly bright. John Tranter's Pogner is actually well suited to the soft-grained and monochrome but sympathetic bass of Michael Burt. The really resourceful performance, spite of the conventional poultry yard footwork, is Nicholas Folwell's Beckmesser.

Nancy Banks-Smith on a page with Strange Powers

Arthur's 2001 tough riddles

"ADAM reports that his boys' maid has got her own television set and he wonders whether the Welfare State hasn't gone a little too far" (Rupert Hart-Davis to his friend and former master at Eton, George Lytton in 1959).

Adam, as you see, had even then the questioning mind that marks the true scientist. He now works in television on, as Yorkshire whimsically put it, the science side, producing Arthur C. Clarke's *World Of Strange Powers*.

The great thing in life, if you wish to be spared subsequent and unnecessary embarrassment, is to prevent your mother holding snaps at you knockless in the paddling pool and your father publicising your witty quips. If persuasion fails, use an axe.

For an answer to Adam's question we must turn to Arthur C. Clarke, scientist, writer and visionary, ponderer of the riddles of this and other worlds in retreat in Sri Lanka.

Riddle No. 1: "Has the Welfare State gone too far? If so, where is it and when is it coming back? Illustrate with copious maps."

Riddle No. 2: "Explain the disappearance of boys' maids, now believed extinct. Do you attribute it to a comet striking the earth, the failure of the rain forests or too much television. Draw a boys' maid or, if imagination falters, a Teasmade."

This week the visionary pondered fairly perfunctorily the riddle of reincarnation. The Sun (or Sri Lanka) goes great guns on reincarnation even holding a reincarnation reporter, a form of specialisation I haven't come across before.

After assorted implausible examples, the shrewd old sage surfaced with his customary disclaimer. He attributed apparent cases of reincarnation to "something read and heard, the memory of the human mind to remember yet forget it is remembering." Sometimes it is called *cryptomnesia*. Sometimes it is called *plagiarism* and they use your socks off if they catch you at it.

Cryptomnesia is endemic among writers, who can reproduce at will large lumps of authors they love. I regularly recycle. Wodehouse, Patrick Campbell, Sellar and Yeatman and A. A. Milne often without realising that they said it first. I consider it a most telling expression of admiration or as the writers are always dead, reincarnation.

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Ireland: the only way to go

The negotiations between the British and Irish governments do not differ in form from any other negotiations between parties to a dispute who start from radically different positions. The question is simply whether the most Britain is prepared to offer can be made to equal the least Ireland is prepared to accept. The talks cannot be treated, though, like an annual wage round. If an agreement is to emerge from the next meeting between the two Prime Ministers it must be designed by both sides to stick for the foreseeable future. If it does not, then nothing will have happened to diminish either the IRA's campaign or the "alienation" which Sinn Féin both relies on for its strength and strengthens by its own activities.

Mrs Thatcher would dearly like to crown her second term by an Irish agreement, and her new Cabinet committee on the subject is now reported to be overseeing in more detail the work of the Anglo-Irish Council. That is the structural term given to meetings of British and Irish officials since her first summit meeting with Mr Charles Haughey. At that meeting it was "the totality of relationships within these islands" which was set as the agenda, but precious little of that totality now survives. The argument is about Northern Ireland alone, though doubtless some Anglo-Irish dimension will be found to pad it out.

The least Ireland can accept is some direct input into the government of the North. The most Britain can offer is a consultative role and not an executive one. Any role whatever for Dublin carries the risk of antagonising the Unionists. If it is to be anything more than cosmetic Mrs Thatcher may well find herself facing another Ulster workers' strike, and with her sentiments less single-mindedly engaged than they were against either the miners or General Galtieri. The most important might-have-been in recent Anglo-Irish history is what might have happened if Harold Wilson had had the political wisdom to see off the Loyalist strikers against the Sunningdale Agreement. Mrs Thatcher, among others, has had to live with the result of that inglorious act of timidity.

Things are not much more clear cut on the Irish side. The new Ireland Forum put

forward three proposals for the North. The current discussions are about a pale reflection of the third proposal, which was for joint authority over the North between the two countries. Since Mr Haughey has taken his stand on the first two (a unitary state or a federation) his party will think ill of his leadership if he settles for anything less than the third. And if Mr Haughey excels in one branch of statecraft it is in keeping the leadership of Fionna Foll, Mrs Thatcher would have little difficulty in selling an agreement to the House of Commons. Dr FitzGerald would have a good deal more in selling it to Dail Eireann. It could so easily be represented as the Irish Government's willingness to shore up British rule.

That each side is fully aware of the other's difficulties is a hopeful feature of the generally cordial way in which the talks are conducted. Cordiality between the two sides' constituents in the North is much more difficult to achieve. There is no sign that the Unionist parties acknowledge any responsibility on their part for the nationalist alienation. No longer having the free hand in government which was theirs for fifty years, they express their unionism in their own alienation from Dublin.

At present, though, it is the Catholic alienation which is underestimated by ministers. Thankful that Sinn Féin got only 12 per cent of the local council vote they have perhaps failed to reckon that the SDLP's 18 per cent also reflects just as deep a yearning, though peacefully expressed. In fact the Sinn Féin vote was not equally distributed and in several towns it hovers above or around the halfway mark of Nationalist opinion.

The measures now reported under contemplation, including an Irish input into the courts and *de jure* influence on the security forces as well as less controversial, Ireland-wide, subjects, might do much to meet the basic Nationalist requirements. But if so there will have to come a point where Westminster asserts its right to decide what is best for the union, regardless of objections from the restricted viewpoint of Belfast. A crisis will have to be met in the Republic also. Dr FitzGerald is not lacking in either the honour or the courage to put Irish interests, including Northern Irish interests, before any other consideration. He is not, however, the only man on the political scene.

Full marks for trying

Democracy may be the best system of government we have: but even the truest,

most farwent democrats need to pause from time to time and reflect how infernally difficult it makes it to get anything done. Mrs Thatcher, wrestling with rates, and Mr Fowler, braced to endure months of social security anguish, are about to learn afresh that anything big and anything structural is a monstrous task. But their twin burdens seem comparatively puny beside the burden voluntarily shouldered early yesterday by President Ronald Reagan.

Mr Reagan is proposing, on one level of rhetoric, "a great effort to give the words freedom, fairness and hope a new meaning and power for every man and woman in America"; more prosaically, he wants tax reform. The scope of the reforms he unveiled yesterday is rather more circumscribed than last year's green paper. But, in outline, it is still well worth the attempting, unravelling a skein of complexity knotted over decades and addressing an American world of big business parts and investment grants which has — especially under his Presidency — become a national scandal. Nor — though there is that natural temptation — should anyone suppose that Mr Reagan is mad to try. In California, long ago, when his second term as governor might have run feebly into the sands, he set welfare reform at the heart of his priorities and prospered from the perceived success of that reform. It is far from impossible that he can do it again: but this time he has a mature national democracy to contend with.

You could sense the stirrings of that democracy yesterday as initial reaction to his package bubbled forth. On the one hand — across both major parties — a warm, general consensus. Everyone likes the sound of sweeping reform. Nobody at all is prepared to argue openly against his theme of "fairness." But look at the detail. As the director of the Los Angeles Times polling organisation tartly observed: "More than half the taxpayers who take a deduction for business entertainment believe that it is fair, but four out of five who cannot claim such a deduction think that it is unfair." And in boardrooms and gubernatorial mansions far away from such grassroots perception, there was even greater trouble brewing. Companies who hadn't lately paid any tax at all — because they were investing in new plant — were immediately up in arms. Industries like steel and heavy engineering — old, traditional, labour intensive — bore the brunt of proposed reform, whilst their high-tech rivals escaped far more lightly. Is this "fair"? Is it "fair" that, in the process of fiscal reconstruction, the declining states of the East Coast should find themselves penalised while the states of the Reagan Sunbelt blossom? And those three

new hands of personal taxation. Simple, yes; but fair? The assorted lobbyists of the special case have barely begun to work yet. And the millions of individuals who, as mass, form public opinion have barely begun to do their own personal figuring, setting this new tax band against the myriad of particular loan deductions they can presently claim, and finding that the bottom line is, after all, not so very alluring. Worse still, the chaps with most to lose are the chaps who can make the largest waves.

The speediest of received political wisdom would add three points. That politicians in general are usually well advised to steer clear of this kind of reform, if at all possible. That the American system of democracy — ordeal on the Hill, death by a thousand adjustments — makes such measures doubly hard to steer through. And that Mr Reagan, five months into his second term, has already duffed too long and missed the moment when his prestige could set this tax revolution rolling. But there is one other point, of counterbalance. A democracy — his democracy there, our democracy here — which lacks the will to attempt the fundamental, which cannot simply because it cannot stand the idea, which cannot mobilise a general will against a cacophony of special interests, is a democracy that is progressively ceasing to function. A politician who didn't need the hassle is trying something monstrous because he thinks it's worth it, and that somebody has got to try it sometime. The essential — and laudable — place to start.

Sticky fingers, Angolan pot

The South African defence minister's claim, during his attempt to explain away the dispatch of a sabotage squad into deep-set Angola, that Marxist governments have special way of making you talk merely compounds the intended folly and underlines the gravity of the treachery involved. We need have no doubt that Captain Wynand du Toit, the officer caught in flagrante with bombs and mines near an oil depot in the remote enclave of Cabinda, was presented with highly persuasive arguments for unburdening himself at the press conference staged by the Angolans. But the fact that he sang like a whole flock of canaries in giving the details of his mission gives the lie to the South African denials and leaves General Malan in the position of the pot which called the kettle black.

It could hardly have come at a worse time. Not only is it just a month or so since the "last" South African army units

ceremonially withdrew from southern Angola (and that was 13 months after they said they would); it is also perhaps only a matter of days before the US Congress decides whether to impose economic sanctions on South Africa in response to a remarkably sustained public anti-apartheid campaign. Pretoria has sought to justify its repeated incursions into Angola with the argument that this enormous country, racked for years by a civil war stoked up by the South Africans anyway, harbours guerrillas of Swapo, which aims to liberate Namibia, and of the African National Congress, which wants to end white minority rule in South Africa itself. Last year's pact between Angola and South Africa supposed to put an end to all that. It was also one of the few showpieces of the Reagan Administration's controversial policy of "constructive engagement" with South Africa, which is intended to use the carrot rather than the stick to get the South Africans out of Namibia and to modify, if not abolish, apartheid. Now the Administration is going to be hard put to it to go on defending this policy, which makes Washington's sharp protest to Pretoria about the Cabinda caper all the more understandable.

Having shot itself through one foot in Angola, the South African government persists in blasting away at the other by the manner in which it is using the police (and increasingly the army) at home, to counter rising black unrest across the country. One of the effects of this sledgehammer approach is to drive the opposition to increasingly desperate acts like this week's bombing of a Johannesburg military medical centre, turning fears of violent resistance into a self-fulfilling prophecy. The result of the ensuing, horrendous and now continuous had publicity is to obscure and discount a series of concessions to black demands and foreign opinion which any seasoned observer of South Africa must find staggering. Even if the motive is no more than to hang on to white control by appeasement, the removal of apartheid in property ownership, sex and marriage, party membership, citizenship, regional government and key jobs in the mines, and the easing of forced removals and even the pass laws — all begun or signalled in the past few months — would have been inconceivable only five years ago. Instead of getting credit for this, the South African government has an increasing credibility problem because of the unrestrained conduct of its security forces. Reforms are of no value to the dead. If President Botha wants to be accepted as a genuine reformer, he must first bring the police and the military under proper control.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A church that's not broad enough for Communist rebels

Sir,—Both the Guardian and some of the recent expeltees from the Communist Party seem to envisage the latter finding a new home within the "broad church" of the Labour Party.

There are two stumbling blocks to such an outcome. The doctrine of democratic centralism—whose interpretation has been at the heart of most splits within the Communist and Trotskyist Left since Lenin first broke from the Second International—is irreconcilable with the ecumenical form of service that Labour's NEC insists we maintain in the main body of its broad church.

And if the NEC were to permit the erection of a private side-chapel dedicated to St Joseph and the cult of the "Falklands," it would thereby set a precedent that would immediately lead to fresh planning applications from the black sections. Militant, Peter Palumbo, and others asking for similar treatment.

While the rich traditions of British church architecture include such spectacular corrections of error as the inverted arches at Wells Cathedral, I cannot see how even Neil Kinnock standing on his head could provide an adequate unifying figurehead for the eclectic structure

which would result, perhaps Tony Benn—the Terry Farrel of the Labour Party—with his proposal to revamp several old and some new structures in a single new constitutional arrangement is more far sighted than Neil realises.

Before the debate reaches the stage where the conservationists appeal to the DoE, could the combined resources of the Guardian's political, religious, and architectural correspondents not come up with a suitable consensus?—Yours faithfully, (Cliff) John Wakeham, London Borough of Camden.

"That class analysis is obsolete." The argument that "Socialism in Britain is not on the agenda" was presented by Irene Brennan in 1977 as chairperson of the British Road to Socialism Congress Committee. This programme argues that the next stage must be a Labour government of a new type fighting for a left alternative strategy.

However, today our first objective is to create the broadest alliance of class and democratic forces to displace this Thatcherite regime with a Labour government which will be led by Neil Kinnock. This will itself be a major Our resolution and the report of the party's general secretary, Gordon McLennan, argue that the central questions of peace, women's liberation, the environment, democratic rights, racism and apartheid should be reduced to a "class against class" position. To win will require engaging the broadest alliance of democratically minded forces in which the working class movement must win the leading role.

Congress took its decisions in line with the wishes of the overwhelming majority of "ordinary party members." Disciplinary action was taken against those who

"showed a cynical contempt" for the decisions of our previous 39th congress, its elected leadership, the British Road to Socialism, and the restoration of the special relationship between the party and the Morning Star.

They all submitted written appeals to every delegate, and addressed congress. An equal number of delegates spoke for and against the disciplinary action and then delegates voted by 2:1 not to uphold the appeals.

A major feature of Stalinism was its undermining of the Labour Party's regular party congresses. When it comes to democracy, the Christian principle should apply: "By their deeds ye shall know them." Both the Morning Star and Irene Brennan have begun to attack majority decisions of our party immediately after a congress.—Yours faithfully, Tony McNally, District Secretary, Communist Party of Great Britain, Birmingham.

Sir,—With the unwarranted optimism implicit in his article, Tony Benn (Agenda, May 24) unintentionally does a disservice to his party.

The establishment may or may not now be moving against Mrs Thatcher, but the task of securing a Labour government with an overall majority remains formidable, requiring the greatest electoral swing since 1945.

Of course the outright winning of the next election should be the foremost aim of any socialist, but it is not inconsistent with that aim to have a "second-best" aim in reserve: a possible anti-Thatcherite alliance.

Moreover it is realistic to bear in mind that there are about 300 Conservative seats which the Labour Party cannot hope to win, even in the most favourable circumstances; and that about 150 of those Conservative seats could be taken by the Alliance (without detriment to the Labour Party); and to aim and vote accordingly.

If a recent opinion poll is right and the Conservatives could be reduced to the third party in Parliament provided we vote tactically, ought we not to aim to bring this about?

John Lee, 2 Dr Johnson's Buildings, London EC4.

Sir,—May I politely remind John Grant (Letters, May 20) that I was fighting

"the politics of hate" and "class-war politics" within the ranks of the Labour Party for several years before he finally disassociated himself from them. Indeed, the term "class war" springs revealingly from his pen with all the relish of an erstwhile socialist journalist.

By contrast Brian Stone's thoughtful and appealing letter contains serious criticism. But my point remains that Labour's socialist policies hardly lend themselves to any genuine electoral deals and compromises. There is an unbridgeable divide between social democrats and the Labour Party.

As Ken Livingstone informs me (Agenda, May 20): "The next election will bring an influx of over 120 new MPs who will be over-riding the Left." Simple arithmetic tells us all we need to know about the next Parliamentary, Labour Party.

The formation of the SDP arose from the compelling need to replace Labour in a democratic realignment in British politics. In my view that is more likely to be achieved by another Labour electoral debacle than in any form of collaboration with it.—Yours etc, Neville Sandelton, London EC4.

Why Foot and Company are too late to save two miners

Sir,—A rider to Hugo Young's timely comment (May 28) on the agitation being raised over the conviction, for murder, of two young Welsh miners.

After a much-criticised House of Lords decision in 1961 (DPP v Smith) the Criminal Law Revision Committee's working paper on offences against the person proposed that "there should be a statutory definition of murder under which (a) if a person, with intent to kill, causes death; and either (b) if a person, with intent to cause serious injury, causes death by an unlawful act such as to endanger life; or alternatively, (bb) if a person causes death by an unlawful act intended to cause serious injury and known to the defendant to involve a risk of causing death."

In *Attorney General v DPP* in 1974 Lord Diplock took the view that because the Homicide Act, 1957, had abolished the doctrine of "constructive malice," an intention merely to cause grievous bodily harm no longer sufficed for murder: the accused must intend — or foresee — that human life would be endangered as a likely consequence of his unlawful act.

Lord Kilbrandon — who joined Lord Diplock in dissenting from the majority judgment in Hyam — suggested that it was high time the common law complexities of murder and manslaughter were replaced by a single statutory offence of unlawful homicide. In which society's view of the relative heinousness of a particular killing could be reflected through the exercise of judicial discretion in sentencing: the sentence for murder, of course, is and always has been fixed by law.

Labour, in office, had ample time in which to consider and implement such suggested reforms. When legislative action was evidently then found unnecessary on grounds of principle, it is perhaps the more distasteful

to find the conviction and sentencing of two miners under the existing common law being made the subject of a largely dispassionate political agitation by past and present members of Labour's Front Bench team.

On the facts as reported — the deliberate dropping of a half-hundredweight iron of concrete on to a vehicle passing directly beneath — it is not easy to envisage how the accused in Shankland and Hancock could have reasonably escaped conviction for murder even on the relaxed definitions suggested by the Criminal Law Revision Committee and by Lord Diplock.

Under the existing common law, it suffices that the accused intended to cause any person serious physical injury, or knew that it was at least highly probable that his deliberate unlawful act would have that result.

If Michael Foot and Co believe such people should not be liable for a conviction for murder, they had the remedy in their legislative hands in 1964-70 and 1974-79. — Yours faithfully, Edward Baker, 23 Salisbury House, London EC3.

Sir,—Hugo Young asks: "When is a murder not a murder?" I ask, under what circumstances is a charge of murder pressed when a plea of manslaughter would normally be accepted? The apparent answer: when the offenders were acting against the establishment.

Very few, if any, of those who protest at the life sentences passed on Shankland and Hancock would defend dropping concrete blocks on a passing car or expect the offenders to go unpunished. If British justice is British justice, these men deserved no heavier sentence than those passed for similar crimes without a political background. — Yours faithfully, (Dr) Denis Glynn, 351 Danebury Avenue, London SW15.

The trade union dissenters

Sir,—Ken Gill, of AUEW (TASS), attacks the EETPU and the AUEW (Guardian, May 21) because of its agreements with hitech companies. For me the main justification is securing more fulfilling working environments and greater job security for our members.

He describes us as "old-fashioned" when he and the clique who dominate his union are from the age of the dinosaurs. What is more old-fashioned than his political position on the hard-line wing of the Communist Party which, even as he was speaking, was being rejected as outmoded? What is more old-fashioned than his conference refusing the membership the right to ballot indi-

vidually for his executive committee? What is more old-fashioned than the argument that because we do not like the Government, we should withdraw from Nedo? Mr Gill's attitudes are held rigidly by the Communist political strait-jacket he wears. Such outdated views have been rejected by the membership of our trade union, and would be by his members if they had the chance.—Yours faithfully, E. A. Hammond, (General Secretary), EETPU, Bromley, Kent.

Futures letters —page 15

Delightful!

Sir,—The gap between Deborah — the mother of Anna and Debbie Republics, to say nothing of the cohorts of Debbie's and gleaming in silver and gold who have since descended upon us, do not miss the wishes of the over-enthusiastic majority of "ordinary party members." Disciplinary action was taken against those who

Indefensibly pestiferous stew

Sir,—Your report (May 24) of a hospital catering manager excusing the presence of cockroaches in his stew on the grounds that they were cooked, emphasises the gross irresponsibility and ignorance of those who should be guarding patients and staff from pest-borne illnesses and distress.

Protected from prosecution by the indefensible anomaly of Crown immunity, hospital supplies officers continue to ignore pest control or to purchase pest control services on the sole basis of the lowest price tendered, often in flagrant disregard of recommendations from their own domestic services supervisors and nursing staff.

Stewed cockroaches may be sterile when served, but while still alive and running all over the food, cooking utensils and food preparation surfaces, they have been shown to carry more than 40 species of pathogenic organisms, including those responsible for polio, hepatitis, salmonella, dysentery, and gastroenteritis.

Pharoahs also taken from

Fine tuning

Sir,—The matter of penalties for road traffic offences may be in a muddle, but it is certainly not in the muddle W. F. Shepherd thinks it is (Letters, May 20).

In his comparison of the new recommendations from the Magistrates' Association about starting-points for sentencing with the older recommendations, he does not compare like with like.

Falling to stop after an accident now has a maximum penalty of £1,000 compared with the previous recommendation of £100. There is not the eight-fold increase he thinks there is. Again the maximum for speeding is now £400, not £200, as he says it is; and the recommendation has gone up from £150 per mile to £2.

How far different benches will adopt the association's recommendations will no doubt vary as it has done in the past. How far, in any particular case, the court will depart from the recommendation is a matter for its own discretion as the association emphasises that it should be.—Yours etc, John Levitt, 2 Hartington Street, Leek, Staffordshire.

Breasts, bums and an ear

Sir,—I am reluctant to rush headlong into the white hot controversy (Letters, May 25) over Jonathan Gern's play *Susan's Breasts*, but I am finishing a commission to play at the Royal Court Theatre called *Jonkin's Ear*. I am now having serious doubts about the title.

This is not because I am worried about "the feminist lobby." A lifetime's research has taught me that this is one erogenous zone we have in common. I'm far more worried that the Guardian might snuff a bit of controversy to live its Arts and Letters pages and create a smokescreen large enough to

blot out the impact of the play itself.

Most playwrights know that word of mouth is the best publicity. They do interview with newspapers only to get bums on seats, and nearly always at the request of the theatre, and certainly not to massage their own egos which are usually quite big enough.

In case I inadvertently mention any other parts of the body, I will leave you with a thought: if there's a bit childish or, if there's a serious point to be made, why isn't it being argued? — Yours faithfully, Duff Hughes, London W11.

A COUNTRY DIARY.

DEVON: I picked up a beautiful little chaffinch in the lane and put it in a hedge where, although its eyelids had closed, it might revive. I was overbalancing so, to make it more comfortable in what I thought were its last moments, I collected some moss. Suddenly there was a fluttering of wings and the bird became airborne and flew away. An acquaintance of mine recently described something similar—but it should first be mentioned that those who live in the deep countryside occasionally have their peace shattered by young men who hit the woodland and moorland trails on their Hondas and

Suzuki. My friend answered a knock on the door and found one such motorcyclist quietly asking: "Could anyone help? We have found an injured buzzard in the wood." Taking a suitably sized cardboard box in their Mini, she and her husband arrived on the scene to see one youth patiently holding the buzzard, surrounded by a dozen bikes and riders whose interest and sympathy was focused on the injured bird. When it was safely held in the topless box they wanted to know if it would recover. In view of my friends' medical knowledge and seeing that the buzzard's eyelids were closed and its beak was falling open, quite apart

from its injured wing, their honest answer could only be: "There is hope but, unfortunately, probably not." While driving home I noticed that the bird had closed its beak; thereupon it seems to have recovered its strength as rapidly as my chaffinch. I leave readers to imagine the scene as the buzzard—wing-span a good four feet—broke loose in the Mini. Fortunately the Fiverton area has a veterinary surgeon and his wife who put loving care into the rehabilitation of injured birds of prey. The buzzard was put in their hands and so this story ends happily.

BRIAN CHUGG

FUTURES

MICRO GUARDIAN-PLUS THE WORLD OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

IN December, 1981, the Government abruptly cancelled an extensive programme of test drilling, the aim of which had been to assess the suitability of various geological formations throughout the country as repositories for high-level nuclear waste (HLW). As a result, British geologists have since been able to make little or no contribution to the solution of a major disposal problem that not only won't go away but grows ever greater as new waste accumulates.

But while Britain has been standing still, studiously refusing to face up to an issue that will have to be dealt with sooner or later, other nations have been pressing ahead vigorously with research. The United States has reached the stage of building its first experimental repository, and plans for similar facilities are well advanced in Canada, Sweden and Belgium. In 1977 the British Government announced that it, too, wanted "a pilot facility or facilities in operation by the early 1990s", but not only is there no chance of that happening, there are no plans to have a prototype repository by even the 2000s.

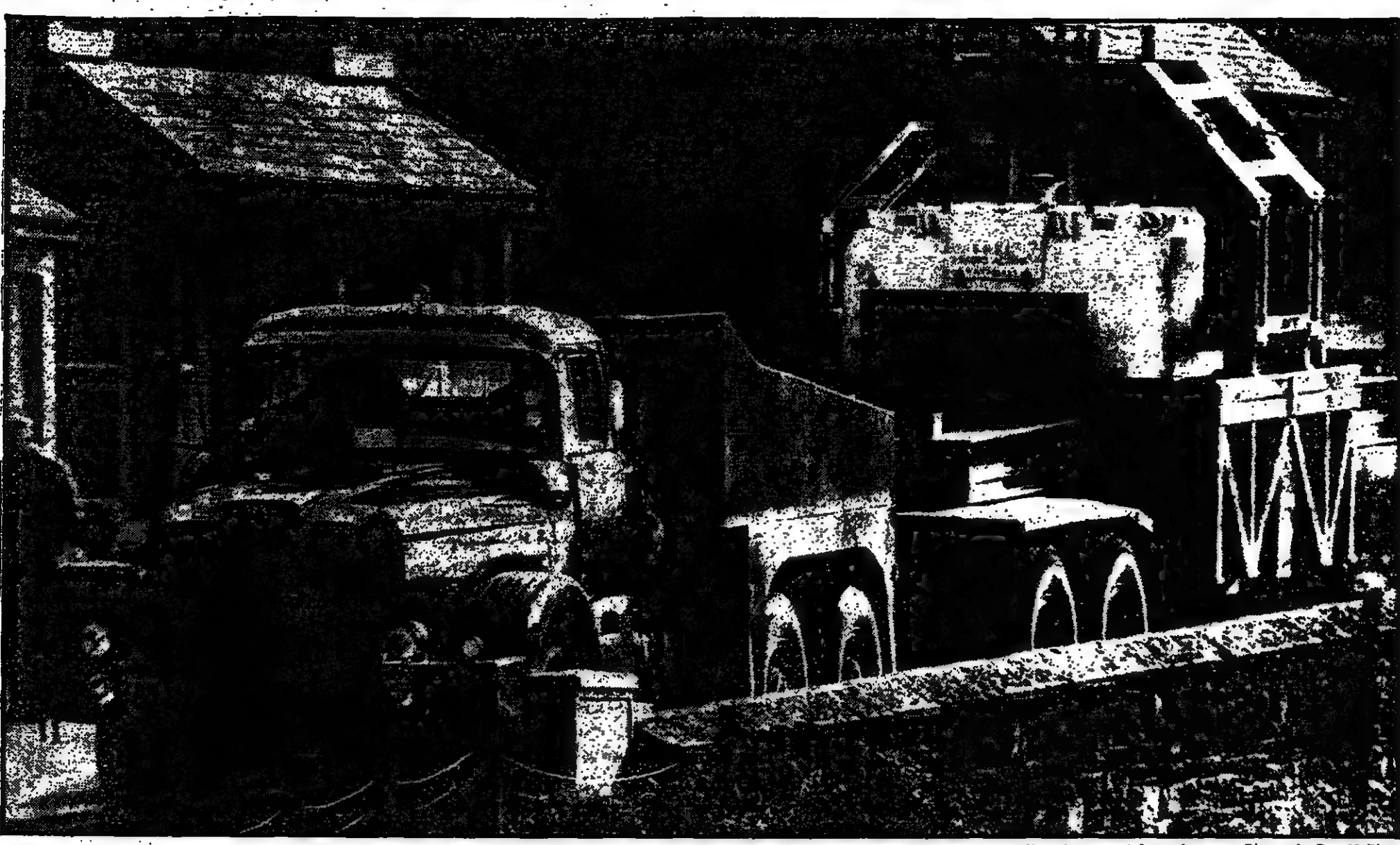
HLW is the particularly nasty material that must be isolated from the biosphere for at least 100,000 years and, in some cases, for more than a million years. It should not be confused with low-level waste (LLW), which becomes radioactively innocuous after periods of up to a few thousand years. Nor is it the same as intermediate-level waste (ILW), which is the catch-all name for anything with a half-life between those of HLW and LLW.

An LLW repository already exists in Cumbria, where the waste is buried in shallow trenches and covered with topsoil, although additional sites will be required within a decade, if not sooner.

As for ILW, burial sites were proposed some time ago for Billingham (since abandoned) and Bedfordshire (now seen as a potential LLW disposal site), and studies are being made into the feasibility of using offshore boreholes. These are the projects that have attracted most public attention in recent years, whilst the geological aspects of HLW disposal have largely faded from view.

The Government decision of 1981 came as a surprise to everyone, although not everyone reacted in quite the same way. The geologists at the Institute of Geological Sciences (now the British Geological Survey) were bitterly disappointed that a programme of basic research due to last a decade or more was to be terminated in its early stages and with only one site investigated. (Drilling of the Strath Halladale granite in Caithness had already been carried out between November 1978, and May 1979.)

Environmentalists, by contrast, were badly split. When, in 1978, the Flowers Commission had proposed that there should be no major nuclear development until a solution to the HLW disposal problem was in sight, some



Sensate radioactive materials on the move. Picture by Don McPherson

If anything calls for in-depth research it is high level nuclear waste. By fudging the issue the Government has passed the buck to future generations, argues Peter J. Smith

How the waste was dumped

environmentalists welcomed the recommendation. They also claimed to support Flowers' castigation of the Government for giving the HLW issue too little attention. These particular environmentalists were therefore presumably in favour of the test-drilling programme announced soon after.

But the drilling came closer, others took a rather different line. That planning permission had easily been gained in Caithness was perhaps hardly surprising, given that the existing commitment "to nuclear power. When it came to the second proposed drill site, in Ayrshire, however, the Kyle and Carrick District Council proved less amenable, refusing planning permission and thus forcing a public inquiry.

In principle, the inquiry (1980) was simply to assess the merits of otherwise of

drilling holes in the ground for basic geological research; but the opponents tried to turn it into a wide-ranging discussion of the Government's whole nuclear policy, thereby giving it a length and public prominence it hardly deserved.

There seems little doubt that the prospect of a dozen or more similar inquiries, covering identical ground and achieving comparable visibility, strongly influenced the surprise decision of 1981. Not that any such admission was made, of course. What the Government said was that henceforth it would limit HLW disposal research "to confirming the applicability to the UK of findings from research in other countries; and that this would be done by means of desk studies, laboratory work and the use of data already available and exploratory drilling would

not be needed for this purpose."

This statement is not only an astonishing example of scientific ignorance, it is also internally inconsistent. The only already-available data that can in fact be transferred from one country to another are the very ones obtained from desk studies and laboratory work, and not all of those. What cannot be transferred under any circumstances are the all-important site-specific details, which can only be obtained by drilling and other techniques.

It doesn't matter how many countries show that, say, granite is suitable for HLW disposal: they will never be able to demonstrate that a particular granitic formation in Britain is suitable. That can only be done by a detailed investigation of the proposed site itself.

The crucial importance of extensive on-site studies is well illustrated by the American experience.

The first Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), in the west at least, is currently under construction about 40 kilometres east of Carlsbad in New Mexico. The repository itself will lie at a depth of 655 metres in bedded salt of Permian age. Present plans are that 170,000 cubic metres of lower-level waste will be deposited there permanently along with 4.25 cubic metres of HLW for experimental observation.

Design work on the site began in 1975 and approval for construction was given by the US Department of Energy in June 1982. By July 1984 two shafts had been drilled to 655 metres, and 3000 metres of drift tunnels had been completed. Excavations are now in progress to produce the under-

ground rooms in which thermal and rock-mechanics experiments will be conducted prior to the expected arrival of radioactive material in 1989. What happens thereafter will depend on how the site reacts to the waste and vice-versa.

The point about the New Mexico WIPP is not just that it will soon exist, demonstrating America's lead, but that its existence will only have been made possible by a large research programme specific to the site. Scientists can (and did) carry out desk and laboratory studies galore on the general problem of depositing HLW in geological formations and even on the properties of the particular rocks found near Carlsbad, but such work could never by itself have answered the most pertinent questions about the suitability of the site.

Britain continues with its

desk-bound studies, but apparently with little enthusiasm. Between 1977 and 1981, Institute of Geological Sciences staff working on the HLW disposal problem rose from 13 to 32, new laboratories were established, and financial support was more than adequate. Most of that has gone now and a spirit of hopelessness prevails.

If the HLW programme had been one of purely academic interest, its abolition would have hurt but would have been of little significance in the overall scheme of things. The tragedy is that it was of great practical importance and will have to be revived at some stage, albeit 10, 20, 30 years or more behind the Americans.

Of course, it may be that in 1981 the Government concluded that the disposal of HLW in Britain would never

be politically acceptable and that the ultimate destination of such waste must be on or under the deep ocean floor. If so, one would have to attribute remarkable prescience to a government so conspicuously lacking in scientific insight.

The Americans are pursuing the seabed idea with almost as much urgency as they are examining land disposal, but even they would not yet presume to judge which will ultimately prove the more feasible. Besides, this interpretation of government thinking is belied by the fact that seabed disposal studies have also been cut.

Alternatively, the Government may have decided that the only politically viable option would be to store HLW at the surface for ever. Surface storage is indeed possible, but it also has severe disadvantages. It requires a bigger and much more complex management infrastructure, it is much more susceptible to accidental damage or terrorist attack and, above all, it puts far more people at risk of exposure to harmful radiation.

No other government in the world believes that permanent surface storage is a tenable policy and, whether government with an HLW disposal problem has been prepared to sit back and do nothing about it, it is well understood that all clear countries must store HLW at the surface for several decades, which is what the Flowers Commission recommended that Britain should do. But the Commission also stressed that this holding action should go hand in hand with research on deep burial. The Government accepted both proposals at first but then rejected the second, leaving it in a politically and scientifically disreputable position.

Perhaps recognising this, the Commons Select Committee on the Environment has now begun to re-examine the Government's non-policy on the HLW disposal issue. It's not before time, for the evaluation of a potential repository site and the design and construction of the repository itself is likely to take at least 20 years and probably much longer.

At the Stewell inquiry in March 1983, a Department of the Environment spokesman freely admitted that the Government—and indeed all of us—were responsibly passing the buck to future generations.

When some future government, no doubt with an equal lack of scientific insight, finally wakes up to the urgency of the problem, it will almost certainly expect the geological community to co-opture a fully-experienced research team from nothing. In the meantime, we have dissipated the expertise gradually built up during the past decade and have fallen out of yet another scientific research programme of international concern.

Peter J. Smith is scientific editor of *Science Today*.

HEART-attack patients are significantly less likely to die if they have the drug streptokinase injected into their blocked coronary arteries within four hours of the start of symptoms, according to the results of a four-year Dutch study completed in March and now being prepared for publication.

Streptokinase also reduces the amount of heart muscle destroyed and limits damage to its pumping efficiency. This latest trial is the first to show the drug's measurable benefits on both survival and heart function.

Its results have already changed medical practice at Rotterdam University Hospital, where the drug was first introduced. For the past two months, all patients arriving within two hours of the onset of a large heart attack have been given streptokinase.

In most cases, heart attack seems to be a two-stage process. Over a period of many years, the blood vessels supplying the heart muscle become narrowed as fatty deposits are laid down along their walls. But the event that precipitates the attack is thought to be sudden blockage of the narrowed artery by a blood clot.

Streptokinase works by dissolving the clot. Blood supply is restored through the re-opened coronary artery; with the result that less heart muscle dies from lack of oxygen. This can be shown by measuring the amount of enzyme released into the blood by dead heart cells. Since more muscle is spared, the pumping power of the heart is increased.

The Dutch study, which ended this March, involved five university hospitals and over 500 patients. People who reached hospital soon after they developed chest pain were given either a streptokinase treatment plus a standard aspirin injection alone. The decision on who to treat with streptokinase was taken at random. Patients were then followed up at the end of one month.

Among the 288 people not given streptokinase, there were 31 deaths within four weeks. This compares with only 14 deaths among the same number of patients given streptokinase, a striking fall in mortality from 12 to 5 per cent.

Of around 50 patients who had streptokinase initially and were then treated by a balloon angioplasty (a

Heart surgery: supplemented by drugs, balloons and lasers

Rob Stepney reviews some of the latest developments in treatment for heart attack—including techniques tried in Holland but as yet far from routine in hospitals in Britain



Four hours to beat the clot

technique which dilates narrowed coronary arteries), only one died in the first year of follow-up. This emphasises the treatment of heart attack as a "package deal." Chemically dissolving the clot itself is not enough. Though increasing survival, this beneficial procedure must be backed up by mechanical intervention to relieve the narrowing that gave the clot the opportunity to block the artery in the first place.

It remains to be seen how much careful selection of patients contributed to this low death rate of 2 per cent mortality found among these 50 patients. Doctors involved in the streptokinase trials, and in similar work using the genetically-engineered substance tissue plasminogen activator are convinced of the value of both forms of clot-dissolving treatment (known as "thrombolysis"). But they emphasise several points. First, injecting any substance directly into the coronary arteries is an unpleasant procedure for the patient and itself involves risk. For this reason, the future may lie with forms of drug that can be injected into any body vein, but which only become active when they bind to blood clots.

These are the clot-specific substances which Dr David de Bono, who investigates thrombolysis at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, has compared to "Exocet-like fire-and-forget missiles that find the thrombus for you and then dissolve it." Such drugs could be used outside the specialised cardiac laboratories of our major hospitals.

Second, thrombolytic therapy seems really effective only in its earliest stages. In the Western Washington study published last month in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, streptokinase was shown to decrease likelihood of death in the year following a heart attack—but there was no evidence of improved performance by the heart, or that the area of muscle damage had been reduced. The Dutch trial is the only study so far to show improvement in all three measures of clinical outcome. This is almost certainly because the average delay between symptoms and the start of therapy in Holland was two hours, compared with over four hours in Washington.

Dr Simoons, of the Rotterdam University Hospital, principal investigator in the

Dutch trial, says: "For the general population that is a very significant message. If you think you are having a heart attack you should get to the hospital as soon as you can."

British cardiologists investigating thrombolysis say they would opt for such treatment if they were themselves brought into hospital with a heart attack. But there is still no nationwide trial in the UK to convince the more cautious of its true worth. Thrombolysis is still a long way from being routine therapy in our hospitals; and drugs like streptokinase are far from being standard issue to ambulance personnel where their emergency use should—in principle—do the most good.

EVEN if drugs succeed in dissolving the clot that precipitates a heart attack, the patient still has a narrowed artery—which makes it more than likely the problem will recur. Fortunately, new ways of restoring the diameter of blood vessels (techniques called "angioplasty") offer hope for the heart that is potentially fatally crippled by narrowing of the crucial coronary arteries.

One procedure involves inflating a tiny balloon inside the partly obstructed artery, squeezing cholesterol-laden plaque back into the blood vessel wall. Balloon angioplasty is already routine in the US, and increasingly practised in Britain in hospitals such as Guy's and the National Heart in London, and university medical centres in Birmingham and Leeds. The other technique—not yet out of its research stage—involves use of laser energy to vapourise plaque. Both methods have obvious use as follow-up to thrombolysis, with angioplasty taking place a month or so after the patient has recovered from the heart attack. Alternatively, some hospitals are developing techniques with a view to immediate intervention, within one to four hours of the start of the heart attack itself.

In balloon angioplasty, a fine tube (or catheter) is inserted into a major blood vessel in the patient's arm or leg and gently eased towards the heart. There it is manoeuvred into the opening of a coronary artery and along its length until the inflatable section sits astride the narrowest point. Liquid is then pumped into the balloon until it is fully

expanded. Inflation usually lasts 15-30 seconds, using a pressure equivalent to four or five atmospheres—much the same force as when you stamp on an acorn. And the effect is similar. In both cases, the object is squashed flat.

The theory behind angioplasty is easy; its practice somewhat more tricky. Inserting a tube into the heart and through a coronary artery only 2-3mm wide is a virtuoso feat of navigation, even though the position of the radio-opaque catheter tip inside the body is continuously monitored by X-ray. Daring as well as dexterity is required since there is risk the artery may split under too much pressure, or that small pieces of plaque may break off, travelling around the circulation and becoming lodged in still smaller blood vessels such as those in the brain. As the Edinburgh cardiologist Dr David de Bono has commented, "The operation is performed under heavy sedation, and not just of the patient."

But balloon angioplasty is an increasingly effective way of treating the symptoms of chest pain (angina) that accompany restricted blood supply to the heart muscle. The procedure is popular with physicians, since it gives them a way of helping patients without having to call in the heart surgeon; and with patients, since the discomfort and long hospital stay inevitable with open heart operations are avoided.

In the USA, there were 65,000 balloon angioplasties last year.

OBLITERATING the cause of heart attacks in a puff of blue smoke has obvious appeal for sci-fi surgeon and suffering patient alike. But, so far, angioplasty using lasers to clean up the coronary arteries has made only tentative steps outside the laboratory. In 1983, New York surgeon Daniel Chot tried laser "re-boring" of coronary arteries in a small group of patients in Toulouse. However, since the patients were having coronary artery bypass operations at the same time, the effect of his intervention was difficult to evaluate.

The attractions of the laser lie not only in its energy and precision, but also in the fact that it should be possible to find a wavelength of light that is absorbed by diseased coronary artery wall but not by healthy tissue. This will make possible the selective destruction of plaque.

Fears for the ozone layer appear to be justified, Robert Walgate pinpoints the missing third

The aerosol and Antarctica

THE vital and protective layer of ozone—a reactive form of oxygen—in the Earth's atmosphere has diminished by a third in the decade 1973-82. Or at least that is what has happened to the ozone over the Antarctic, in the Antarctic springtime, according to measurements made by a group of three scientists from the British Antarctic Survey (BAS).

The decline in ozone, which protects the Earth from an overdose of solar ultraviolet light, matches a detectable increase in the amounts of chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs (aerosol propellants) in the polar atmosphere in the same period, the British group claims. While spring ozone fell by a third at the BAS Halley station, says Joe Farman, Brian Gardiner, and Jonathan Shanklin, tropospheric (lower atmosphere) CFCs increased four to eightfold, corresponding to increased world-wide uses of the chemicals.

The scientists make a direct connection between the two results. They say that the long, cold polar night increases the deleterious effect of chlorine atoms released by the CFCs. The chlorine effectively mops up the ozone, converting it to ordinary oxygen, which is much less effective at absorbing the ultraviolet rays. Thus, in the southern spring, Antarctica is acting as a drain on the Earth's ozone layer.

Environmentalists have long been warning that CFCs would prove dangerous to the ozone layer, but until these Antarctic results most scientists had thought measurable effects were unlikely for decades. They based their optimism on simple models which treated the whole atmosphere as a single column of gas. Inevitably, this ignored regional effects—one of which now appears to be that Antarctica with its long polar winters is particularly sensitive to the CFC problem.

There's no obvious source for the increased CFCs we've

detected other than man-made sources," said Shanklin last week. And he rules out any quasi-benign "natural bias" in the BAS measurements of ozone. "We have made continuous ozone measurements at our bases on the Argentine Islands and Halley Bay since the International Geophysical Year in 1957," Shanklin said. Japanese and American scientists have also made ozone measurements in the Antarctic, and they show only "hints" of a decrease, but those data have gaps which make interpretation difficult, said Shanklin.

The BAS data is based on the same measurement technique—and even the same instruments—right up until 1982. Moreover, the decline of ozone in the Antarctic spring (October) since the early 1970s is clear, steady and dramatic. A new instrument introduced in 1982 confirmed the results of the old equipment to within 2 per cent, Shanklin says.

Moreover the latest measurements made from October, 1984, to January this year confirm the "very dramatic" decline, according to Shanklin.

No doubt these results will increase pressure from environmentalists to ban or reduce the use of CFCs, although the world-wide impact of the ozone decline over the Antarctic is not yet clear—and may be only small. However, increases in ultraviolet penetration have already been detected in the Antarctic, and there may be legitimate fears for its effect, say, on phytoplankton in southern oceans, the primary food source for the abundant fish, krill, birds, seals and whales of the area.

What Shanklin, Gardiner and Farman claim, at least, is that their results indicate at least that Antarctica will prove a sensitive laboratory for testing theories of the effects of CFCs, and for monitoring potential global effects.

Ref: *Nature*, vol 315 p207 (May 16, 1985).

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For further details please contact The Administrator, The Numerical Algorithms Group Ltd, NAG Central Office, 235 Barbican Road, Oxford OX2 7DE. Tel. (0865) 311243. Closing date for applications: 18th June 1985.

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The industry still hasn't designed the ideal home micro.

Jack Schofield does it for them — and then chooses the nearest contender

THIS YEAR the home micro is ten years old. You might think that by this time, designers would have made a certain amount of progress. They have, in one direction: price. Facilities that cost £2,000 in 1975 and £1,000 in 1980 can now be had for under £500. In other respects home micros have not improved much. Many have got worse.

Today every micro on the market has one or more major design flaws. As the computer industry grows, the general public is such that bad machines can not only be marketed, they can be enormously successful. The Commodore Vic 20 and Dragon 32 are examples. Each enjoys a brief reign as the best-selling micro on the market, before disappearing into deserved obscurity.

The reason is that almost all home micros are not designed up to a standard, but down to a price. Only a few attempts have been made to produce a machine of real quality: the Apple II in 1977, Atari 800 in 1979, Acorn BBC B in 1981 and the Enterprise in 1983-4. These are the contenders, and none of them is perfect. If anyone wants to have another go, this is what the ideal Home Micro (IHM) should be like...

The IHM should have an advanced 16/32-bit central processing unit (cpu) and lots of random-access memory (RAM). The cheapest powerful chip widely available now is the Motorola 68000 used in the Apple Macintosh, so we'll choose that. One advantage of the 68000 is that it can address 16 megabytes of RAM. For comparison, today's 8-bit machines can only address 0.065 megabytes directly.

The standard memory should be at least 128K, made up of 16Kx8-bit chips. As these cost less than £1 each, 128K of RAM costs under £16, which is hardly extravagant. The RAM chips should be socketed on the main board of the computer, not soldered in, and the IHM should be designed to handle large amounts of the same sockets. This will allow users to upgrade by leveraging out the old 64K RAMs and pushing in 256K-bit (24 each) or, later, 1M-bit chips. Five 1M-bit chips, at £40 each, should enable you to beef up the standard model to 512K or even two megabytes of RAM.

Other chips could include the NEC 7220 graphics and Western Digital floppy disc controllers and an AM-7910 "word modem" chip. These, with their associated circuitry, would allow the IHM to produce stunning graphics displays in up to 512 colours with a resolution of up to 1024 by 1024 pixels, to control virtually any floppy disc drive, and to talk via the phone line to almost any other computer in the world.

A DMA (direct memory access) chip should be included so data can be taken directly from memory or from disc storage without being shuffled through the 68000 cpu. Thus the micro will run quicker.

A battery-backed clock/calendar should be provided to allow program files to be time and date-stamped, an electronic mail to be collected automatically at a pre-determined time. The battery should be big enough so that memory and any work you have in memory — not lost if the mains supply is interrupted.

The main board should provide a large number of ports so that its power can be accessed easily by a wide range of peripherals. Ports should be included for ROM cartridges, a mouse, joystick, floppy disc drives, a hard disc, a printer, a telephone line, a local-area network, a MIDI instrument (MIDI is the standard Musical

Instrument Digital Interface), an RGB monitor and a tv set. There should also be an expansion bus which includes all the main lines from the cpu. Note also that all these ports should coincide with standard plugs and sockets, not in non-standard ones or unreliable edge connectors.

The board should be shielded to prevent unwanted radio frequency emissions, and enclosed in a smart case designed to be as easy to move about as an Apple Macintosh or ACT Apricot.

The main feature of the case should, of course, be a keyboard laid out like an IBM Selectric typewriter, and of similar quality. In addition to the typewriter keys there should be ten programmable function keys, a cross-shaped cursor control pad, and a separate numeric keypad. A LED microscreen, beneath the function keys, should show the key assignments, as on the ACT Apricot. Keys like Caps Lock and Num Lock should have built-in LEDs to show when they have been set. The remaining features should include a power-on/off switch with LED indicator, and a soft reset or "warm start" key so it is possible to escape from a crash without losing the program.

The IHM should include a massive amount of software on read-only memory (ROM) chips. The main ones should be the Digital Research GEM graphics environment manager and associated software, plus the Logo and Basic languages. GEM provides a "user friendly" environment rather like the Xerox Star and Apple Macintosh, but adds colour. It can be run on a wide range of machines.

The software in the IHM should include word processing, graphics, a diary, a spreadsheet, plus filing and telecommunications. The Basic should be as close to the ANSI standard as possible, like the Enterprise Basic, but fast, and it should include a machine code monitor like the Acorn BBC B.

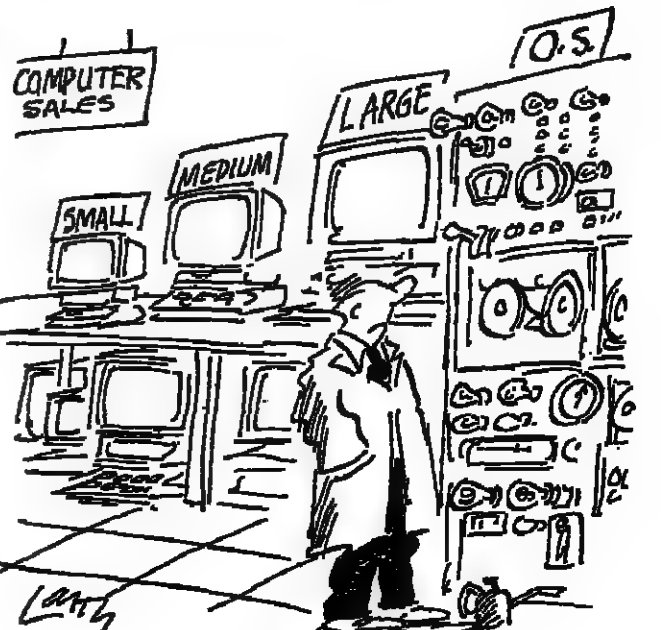
GEM should allow you to configure a multi-tasking operating system that enables several programs to be run at once. It should make it easy to select the amount of memory used for the screen display, the resolution and number of colours available. Also it should enable spare memory to be set aside either to act as a very fast pseudo-disk drive or "silicon disc" or as a printer buffer, and so on.

All of the things mentioned for the IHM are, of course, available. There is a micro being launched shortly which has many of these features — the Atari 520ST. It has the 68000 chip, 512K of soldered but removable RAM, a 3.5in floppy disc drive, 152K of ROM, the GEM chip, most of the ports (including mouse, hard disc and MIDI), an excellent keyboard, GEM, Basic and Logo. A fuller description of the Atari in MicroFutures on April 25.

The Basic is not as good as that in the Enterprise, there's no built-in monitor and 720K is known to be multi-tasking. In other respects the Atari 520ST comes as close to ideal as you are likely to get, either this summer or next. The price, with its monitor and 3.5in disc drive, should be around £700 - £800. That's about the same price as upgrading a 128K Macintosh to a 512K model, which means cheap, if it lives up to its promise.

First reports suggest it might. Personal Computer News said "the hardware is finished and it's poetry" and "it is the most beautiful machine, this is it" (May 11). Personal Computer World's reviewer (June issue) said "the electronics in the machine are a work of art" and concluded: "When the machine appears in the shops, I'll be at the front of the queue to buy one. My own preview in Practical Computing magazine (June) was also favourable. This particular dream is evidently widely shared.

Of course, both specifications and first impressions can be misleading, but the 520ST still looks like the best home or business machine anywhere near the price. I'm saving up already. But if anyone wants to build my real IHM, I'm willing to pay a bit more for perfection.



The new technologies will never broaden any horizons as long as the old office attitudes remain, warns David Canter

The machine is not Miss Jones

FOR THE last two or three years each month has seen the launch of software offering new capabilities: computer languages, tutors, diary managers, display creators, expert system shells, integrated packages. Every season even more novel products are announced to help create the next generation of exotic products. By now we should all be automated, programmed and computer controlled down to our last expenses claim form. The whizz kids and buffs are the stuff of newspaper reports, but if you go into most shops or look in people's offices this new software is not to be found. A word processing package and the spreadsheet that came with the machine may be apparent, but most activities are still robustly linked to the cellulose technology rather than the new silicon-based one.

If we look at how the software that is available is used, the same pattern can be seen. About 10 per cent of the functions are used for about 90 per cent of the time. The vast capability that computers offer is just not being utilised. It cannot be ignored that this is true with the bookshelves loaded with

computer magazines. The limitations are often not economic either. Many people actually possess the more novel products, but do not put them to any use.

Psychological research indicates that the limitations are in our abilities to change our ways of dealing with our work, in how we can accommodate to the new opportunities. New software may not put such great demands on our computing skills as it did in the past but it does require us to change our habits of work thinking and working.

Many secretaries will tell you that the people who give them work to type have not changed their work habits much since the word processor arrived, except that they now lead to produce scribbled drafts which have to be revised many times. So the throughput of work is not increased. There may be some improvements in the quality of the final product, provided the new range of mistakes specific to word processors are spotted and corrected. But the real breakthrough is when the office organisation is changed. For example, when the writer is able to use the machine directly.

But this is where further

limitations are introduced. The secretary may be able to think of a micro as an exotic typewriter, but how is the manager or executive to understand what it can do? It is certainly not an electronic secretary or personal assistant, whatever the advertisements say.

The first problem is in describing what it is computers and their software actually do. In order to use any machine you need some idea of what is going on inside it. Psychologists like to call this the user's model of the machine. With a motor car, a washing machine or a typewriter we have a reasonably overt view of what is happening, and if we take the machine apart we see something not unlike the engine or tumbling motor that we expected. But you can no more look inside a computer to see what makes it tick than you can inside a person's head.

So we have to proceed by analogy. Yet analogies drawn from existing machinery does not lead to new ways of organising the work — just modifications of existing practice. These can often be counter-productive.

With Macintosh and Lisa, the desk top has now become

the analogy thought experiment here — a strange desk top cluttered with filing cabinets, waste paper bins, clocks and open files. Many of the components of the desk top have a strange existence too. Files can be pulled out of drawers, yet they can be saved without being put back again. The problem is that a whole world of information is in the machine, and somehow or other we have to find our way around it.

It is tempting to think of the problem as being one of getting views through different windows, but windows that change in size and shape and can overlap each other without being transparent. The clues that an actual cluttered desk give through the depth of the piles as well as the many tactile qualities of the material are not there on the VDU. The new operating environment like Digital Research's GEM or IBM's TopView will make the world of windows more widely available, and with the spread of mice (or is it mouses?) we should all be able to dart happily from window to window. There is no guarantee, however, that we will stop getting lost.

The window analogy may

help if we recognise it as just that. Finding your way around a piece of software is rather like finding your way around a complex building, peeping into different rooms along the way to see what is going on. If you have no understanding of the plan, if the signposting is inadequate, and you are not quite sure where you are going, then no amount of fancy decor or interesting views will make you feel more at home.

Being able to talk to the building, so to speak, won't help either. The quest for a true natural spoken language communication with computers is unlikely to be very fruitful this side of the millennium if the literature on the psychology of language is to be believed. Writing and the various forms of technical communication have developed, in part, because of the weaknesses of the spoken word of instruction and precise communication. Even the spoken word is shaped and structured to be quite unnatural for commands. The military parade ground would be a shambles if natural language were to be used there. The same would be true if computers that held conversations were used to run offices or factories.

Part of these difficulties comes from the fact that to write computer software you need to be the sort of person who does not make ordinary human mistakes. Programmers just generate errors. The teenage boy who has grown from his bedroom PER to develop software for IBM is unlikely to see the world in the same way as most users. But he is likely to be enamoured with the latest technological possibilities. In the 1980s the video phone was developed and we were all told that they would be standard by the 1990s. It turned out that ordinary folk disliked the telephone and the prospect of video flashers, and this opportunity has never been taken.

At last industrial psychologists and ergonomists are being brought into the earlier stages of the design of computing systems and consequently the inexperienced user is beginning to be considered. Let's hope that these preventative measures will have their impact before there are too many cases for their colleagues in clinical psychology.

David Canter is Professor of Applied Psychology at the University of Surrey.

LETTERS:

The shaman's services shame the medicine of the West

FOUND Norman Myers's role on shamanism and folk medicine most interesting, May 16. However, placing so much stress upon the effectiveness of many folk medicines and practices, Myers omits to mention one of the most important contributions which shamanism might make to Western medicine.

The shaman, combining the roles and skills of a spiritual guide and psychotherapist, in addition to those of herbalist and physician, operates with a holistic conception of the patient which is very different from that held by our own doctors. The causes of illness are seen to be associated with the personal and social situation of the patient and with the quality of personal relationships.

Additionally, the relationship between shaman and patient is characterised by the former's concern to treat the whole patient — in his/her spiritual, psychological and social aspects, as well as in relation to injury or disease.

Illness is viewed as much spiritual and social problem as it is a physical one. As such, the process of recovery is also seen as affected by these various interlocking elements.

Western medicine is only just beginning to glimpse the

importance of these things, but is still trapped within a tradition of healing which stresses technological solutions alone and which has led to the patient being viewed as an isolated object rather than a person involved in a number of different levels of experience.

If Western medicine were to enter into the exchange of its considerable technological advances, for the wisdom and insights of the shamanic tradition — as well as its pharmacological knowledge — as a whole would greatly profit. — Yours, etc.

Alan J. Phipps, Lecturer in Social Sciences, Stockport College.

I LIVED in China for nearly 30 years before the war and was told the following story about native medicine. A European, living in a remote small town many days' journey from the nearest missionary hospital, liked about him and made his own bullets.

One day, a bowlful of gunpowder blew up in his face and he was told the following story about native medicine. A European, living in a remote small town many days' journey from the nearest missionary hospital, liked about him and made his own bullets.

over the mouth and told his patient to let it harden until it fell off.

When it eventually flaked away the skin underneath was healed, fine and pink as a baby's. The explanation, I was told, was that the blood was fresh and so free from infection. Is this a likely story?

Stella Alexander, London SW1.

THERE is much more to shamanic pathology than the knowledge of the healing properties of plants. Much of our early knowledge of native medicines came from Christian missionaries, and they tended to dismiss native healing practices as mumbo-jumbo. Consequently, a great deal of folk medicine has been lost and even the sterling work done by anthropologists and oral historians in the retrieval of native folklores has not done great credit to repair the loss. Having said that, some progress is being made, as Norman Myers indicates, albeit in the way that most shamans first learned their healing arts — by trial and error.

I have some knowledge of the healing societies of the native North Americans, particularly the Navajo, but little of the societies that Norman Myers writes about. But I know that shamanic practices do not vary overmuch from



Kafan medicine man from Colombia

culture to culture. The shaman is usually a priest as well as a medicine man and in attempting to understand folk medicine one has to see it as part of a wider belief system incorporating a traditional cosmology, a moral code and physical and psychical well-being.

Thus, an illness may be seen as the result of witchcraft for which the antidote could be an anti-ritual ceremony, perhaps lasting several days. Such a ceremony could also serve a

esoteric and curing purpose, helping to reassure the victim that he has the love and protection of kinfolk and friends; such ceremonies are also used when the cause of the disease or wound is seen as divine punishment for a moral transgression, and then the group cohesion that is demonstrated in the ritual serves to reinforce the tribal members' sense of their community.

Whatever the perceived cause of the illness the ceremony, whether drugs are taken or not, works like a kind

technology. We have resolved the Internet of French problems in the past, for example at Agincourt, Blenheim, Trafalgar and Waterloo; can we not come to these rescue on this occasion? — Yours faithfully, Dr C. Isaacson, British Physics Olympiad Committee, University of Kent.

Surface considerations

EVOLUTION may have been slow to start because of a low fractal dimension of the land surface (Robert Walgate, May 16), although the break-up of Pangaea occurred only 200 Myr ago.

But surely a more relevant influence would have been the amount of land surface? Continental structure has slowly accumulated through volcanic differentiation of the Earth's crust, depositing higher rocks on top of heavier ones. Consequently the early Earth can have had much less land surface than it has now. With less land, evolution would progress only slowly. — Stewart Campbell, 4 Dorset Loan, Edinburgh.

Mystery of genetic clocks

SURELY your correspondent Saffron Davies (Coming Up

For Air, May 16) has missed the point of the Nature article when publishing the article on sheep foetal haemoglobin. In both the Nature and the Guardian articles, the nature of the genetic clock was regarded as an "intriguing question".

This fascinating question is not new, and the partial answer that we already have was provided in the article in Nature following that on sheep haemoglobin. On the facing page was the gene map of the human chromosome 11 globin genes.

It has been known for about five years that the foetal globin genes are virtually adjacent to the adult beta globins. This information, in itself, immediately suggested that the change from foetal to adult globin production was governed by an as yet unidentified form of intracellular DNA regulation.

The result of the sheep experiments is just what could be predicted from pre-existing knowledge of mammalian genomes. What was remarkable about the article — and the Guardian coverage of it — was the absence of any reference to pre-existing knowledge about genetic clocks. The work of the Leicester group on the use of globin genes in tracing evolutionary pathways also springs to mind as relevant to this work on mammals.

There certainly are intriguing questions to ask both

for scientists and journalists alike. The Nature article was disappointing to find the Guardian dodging some that I would like to suggest. Is there enough cross-fertilization of ideas between related (e.g. human genetics and animal genetics) disciplines? Could grant-giving bodies give more of a lead in encouraging such cross fertilization? In view of recent work on evolutionary genetics could mice be used instead of sheep to establish the same findings but at lower cost? Are scientists carrying out research on livestock species in close enough contact with the rest of the academic community?

Caroline C. S. Murphy, UMIST, Manchester.

Keyboard strategies

CHRISTOPHER Reed (Futures, May 23) resurrects the story that the Qwerty keyboard was "designed deliberately slow because keys jammed if typists reached their top speeds". As I understand it, early keyboards tended to jam if adjacent keys were pressed successively. The Qwerty arrangement tried to overcome this problem (and hence speed up typing) by organising the layout so that successive letters tended to be typed on non-adjacent keys. — Yours sincerely, Peter Higginbotham, Leeds.

In defence of Logo

THOSE teachers who have been able to try Logo for themselves will know what a great advance it is over the programming languages hitherto used in schools. It will come as a shock, therefore, for them to learn that the final report of the joint working party in computer studies for the new Scottish curriculum, examining using Logo, dismissing it in the following two sentences:

"Logo, which was designed for use by children, would be an acceptable language at an acceptable level but does not possess the full range of constructs necessary to support work at credit level and beyond. For example, many implementations have only fixed loops while data structures, often place unacceptable restrictions on the use of numeric and data processing examples which can be used."

The joint working party has recommended instead the adoption of the language used in the Basic language course, Borg whose original designer, Borg Christensen, has since said that he prefers Logo to Basic. While I could write at length about the features of Logo that make it a better language for learning to program than Basic or structured Basic, suffice it to point out

The Physics Olympiad

FOR many years International Scientific Olympiads in mathematics, physics, and chemistry, have been held in Europe. Their aim has been to encourage excellence amongst pre-university science students. The most able students, from many countries, compete in theoretical and experimental examinations.

Britain first participated in the International Physics Olympiad in 1984 and will be sending a team to the Olympiad this year. This has been possible through sponsorship from a number of companies: ICL, British Telecom, GEC, Barr and Stroud, Philips Research Laboratories and Longman Group.

An opportunity has arisen, in 1986, for Britain to host the International Physics Olympiad as a result of France's withdrawal from its commitment to hold the Olympiad. This provides an occasion for British industry and government to encourage young people to enter careers in science and engineering by supporting this international event in 1986 which is to be designated Industry Year.

It is the custom that the host country must host the financial costs of the Olympiad during the time in which the teams are in residence in the country; some 25 teams participate. The total cost amounts to £100,000. This is not great when one considers that each country hosts the Olympiad about once in 25 years, and in the intervening years, when our team is sent abroad, we have no residential costs; an "average" of £4,000 per year.

Let us not neglect our future readers of science and technology by letting this opportunity pass. We need to encourage our future Isaac Newtons, Michael Faradays and Ernest Rutherfords if we are not to lag behind our neighbours in science and

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Double think in the face of a triple divide

COMMENTARY

Hugo Young



less than outright victory? What possible benefit is to be gained by conceding defeat before we've started?

A very natural public stance. What is more disturbing, from the citizen's point of view, is that this encapsulates the private stance as well. The imagination is ready to leap no further. Inevitable stubbornness prevents any forward thinking about the private stance as well. The imagination is ready to leap no further. Inevitable stubbornness prevents any forward thinking about the private stance as well.

This will have a heavy practical cost if the next election does produce a hung parliament. No one except the Alliance will have thought hard enough about what to do. The ritual denunciations of the Alliance by Mr. Kinnock and Mrs. Thatcher won't matter a jot. They can be wiped out overnight. What will matter, at a time crying out for cool assessment, is the absence of any forward thinking about the deals that could be done.

Such a posture also has another cost. It reveals a set of politicians who are determined to remain out of touch with the mood of the country, and wedded to political programmes which pay not the smallest heed to their acceptability among other parties. Insofar as support for the Alliance rests on a pervasive belief that some return to a centrist

consensus would be desirable, Labour is doing only slightly more than the Conservatives to accommodate it. Both still spend most of the time rendering themselves ineligible for the compromises that the continuance of government after 1987 may require.

The absurd vagaries of the electoral system may yet prove one or other of them right. But the Alliance's present standing must give even Smith Square and Walworth Road to doubt the remarkable thing about the two opinion polls which gave the Alliance well over 30 per cent support was not so much the figure as the fact that it resulted from no obvious precipitating event: no novelty, no by-election, no sudden fever which necessarily recedes as fast as it appears.

Whether or not the figures drop, one probable truth already stands against the hard-line strategy of the old parties. It is that, if either of them does win outright, it is likely to be on an even keel with the mood of the country, and wedded to political programmes which pay not the smallest heed to their acceptability among other parties. Insofar as support for the Alliance rests on a pervasive belief that some return to a centrist

DIARY

THE LARGELY successful attempt by Bernard Ingham, the Prime Minister's press secretary, to bring the whole of Whitehall's information machinery under his control has received a small but welcome setback. So far he has managed to ensure that most policy announcements are put through a carefully controlled propaganda filter in the style of the brothers Satchi and has gained considerable influence over the careers of senior information officers. But the snooty intellectuals of the Foreign Office, whose spokespeople are real diplomats on secondment rather than specialist information drones, have administered a sharp jab to the Ingham nose. They refused to go along with his demand for a more rigid adherence to the Foreign Office's publications and any aspect of their contents, and later actually refused to sign Ingham's account of the meeting. The FO chaps have a long tradition, rather like the Treasury, of steering their hand of specialist reporters in their chosen direction, and they're loath to let a former Hobsbawm Bridge Labour Party member with an exaggerated sense of mission interfere with that — especially since he can't influence their careers so easily. A blow for freedom against Downing Street!

WHAT'S this? Privatisation of the Greater London Council? Surely not. The facts are these: it dawned on the GLC Labour Group that they would have to postpone the final edition of the Londoner, the dreary anti-abortion propaganda sheet pushed through the doors of innocent citizens, if it was to carry the outcome of the Abortion Bill? Rather than prolong the secondment of two GLC staff to the Londoner, the grand finale will be produced by an outside body — namely Francis Beckett's Union Communications, which produced a report on improving the Londoner earlier this year.

FREEDOMS have their pitfalls. More than 150 journalists were whisked over to Cannes by Concorde yesterday to look at the new uniforms for British Airways staff. But as they were heading for the plane, a helicopter crashed, killing a pilot and a young man. The rest, horrified by the sight of the crash, refused to board. Several unfortunate were tracked down by their editors and ended up hiring a helicopter and flying lunch less to the scene. The rest, horrified by the sight of the crash, refused to board. Several unfortunate were tracked down by their editors and ended up hiring a helicopter and flying lunch less to the scene. The rest, horrified by the sight of the crash, refused to board. Several unfortunate were tracked down by their editors and ended up hiring a helicopter and flying lunch less to the scene.

SOME discrete crowing in the Labour Party hierarchy about de-selection of sitting MPs — or rather, the complete absence of de-selection — means that half the 209-strong Parliamentary Labour Party have held on without mishap. Some optimists reckon they won't lose a single MP; but keep an eye on the late of Michael Cocke, Renee Short, Peter Shore and John Silkin in particular.

IN THE climbing world, "young activists" are not so much in smart suits with fanatical politics, but iron-pumping gymnasts with a death wish who pioneer and race up new routes. Such is the competition and pressure, however, that they are going the way of all flesh: the United International Alpine Association has just set up a working party on the use of cocaine by climbers. The mind boggles: stoned while hanging by your fingertips.

TONY Marlow, Conservative MP for Northampton North, is about to lose the constituency to the Labour Party. He is a foreign husband's judgment. "As far as the British people are concerned, our immigration laws are more important than our adherence to this foreign court," says Marlow, who takes the line on letting foreigners in. He needs the space for his own ten children — five by his wife and five by his mistress.

IT LOOKS as if the Metropolitan Police is about to lose one of its special constables — one Roger Inions, Conservative member of Hillingdon Council and close buddy of the bare-knuckled Terry Dicks MP, who is about to be elected. Inions has been just been by Newcastle magistrates after visiting the city as a Spurs fan, and apparently using four-letter words and offering five-pounds to police. Inions can take it, but the cops might not want him any more.

Stephen Cook

AT LABOUR party headquarters, it is axiomatic that power must never be shared with any other group of politicians. At Conservative party headquarters, it is stated with adamantine placidity that power never will be so shared as a result of a deal, a pact or any similarly perilous arrangement. All around the country these positions—the early ground-laying for the 1987 election—are now being put to the test.

The recent county council elections produced 26 "hung" councils, in 20 of which the SDP Liberal Alliance holds the balance of power. Centrally, resistance to allowing the Alliance any power at all is extraordinarily strong. It is as if, watching the death-throes of the political structure that has sustained them for so long, the old parties would rather see it smashed than see it evolve towards a new kind of life. They resist the tide tenaciously. The stronger the tide becomes, the more quickly they defiantly seem to wave to it.

Locally, however, it is proving to be a rather different story. The analogy between local and national government is far from exact. Local government can be carried on, even in a wholly split council, without any

thing approaching a coalition or detailed agreement on policy. There seems to be nothing resembling a coalition anywhere in the land. Local government is government by committees, a fact which makes for horse-trading that falls a long way short of coalitions or even pacts.

In some areas, London's writ has run. The old parties have made sacrifices they once would rarely have contemplated, to keep the Alliance out. In Avon and Northumberland, where Labour is the largest but not majority party, the Tories have voted them into domination of the committees. In Hampshire and East Sussex, a Labour rump has returned the compliment. Elsewhere, the pattern will be less pleasing to the party bosses. The natural tendencies of the electorate are being more adequately recognised. Especially is this true of the Labour party in the south west. Here the strength of anti-Tory sentiment is more than a match for any edicts against concordats in Wiltshire, Somerset and Devon. Labour puts a minority Alliance in power, as it also does in Cambridgeshire.

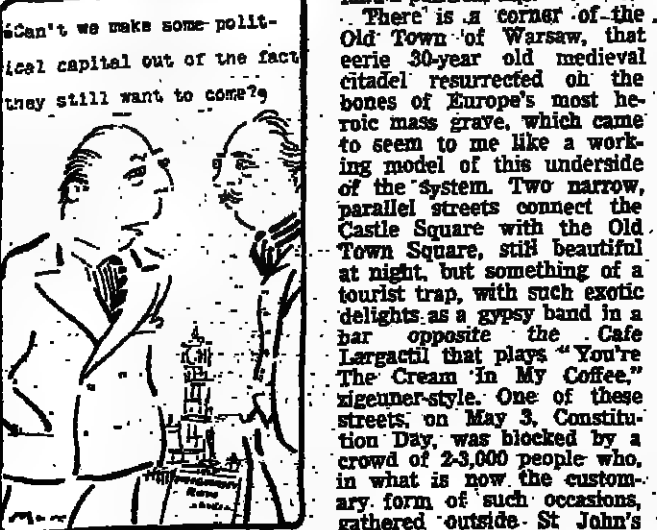
Another alien stream has begun to seep into the system. One of the Alliance's essential demands, when it has any power at all, is for the membership of committees to be proportional to party strength on the council. Along with more open access to information, this has the capacity to wreck the caucus system by which one-party government has been ruthlessly imposed on counties as well as cities. Proportionality, a central breach in two-party ideology, is now in place in Essex, Humberside, Cheshire and Leicestershire, as well as the places the Alliance runs. Slowly, the actual requirements of power and politics impose themselves on the most tenderly cherished pre-conceptions of parties that are running very scared.

It is extremely difficult, however, to get any senior national politician in the big parties to address the nature of their terror. These local realities, if they are known about the centre, are thrust out of mind. The techniques of minority government are something few Labour or Tory managers can bear to think about. The condition of political Britain at the moment, which consists of something close to an equal three-way divide, is a reality they have many methods of not acknowledging.

This is, at one level, quite understandable. One of the products of three-party politics is a new hierarchy of values. Top of the list, by a mile, is credibility. For anyone of anti-Conservative persuasion, who will win-becomes a more important consideration than what exactly they stand for. For socialist the same is true, although perhaps less pressingly.

Plainly, any public discussion of the consequences of the Alliance presence may serve to fortify it. An attitude of contemptuous hostility is possibly the best way of shoring up party support. At the same time, it means that not a single word any Labour or Conservative, or

Stations of the Cross; Details of collage by Anna Böhndorff for a new church in Nova Ruda, a large Urzavon industrial suburb. Below the Calvary are farmers at a 1981 Rural Solidarity demonstration.



In the last of three articles, W. L. WEBB listens to uneasy echoes of Poland's troubled history

The missionaries in God's playground

What's important now, said a Catholic writer involved in this movement, "is not how different things are from 1981, but the fact that this is an entirely different country from the Poland of 1979. And the essence of the difference is this. You can afford to buy people (if you can afford to), you can frighten them, exhaust them, but the phenomenon of the captive mind that Milosz described is no longer possible."

The Party's ideological dynamic is gone, for good, so far as one can see. And the "open politics" style of

Rakowski in his shirt-sleeved. Any Questions shows, the crisp press conference performances of Jerzy Urban are just that: stylish, even rather gallant performances by an intelligent PB team making the most of very little product.

The crucial problem of such a political system as this, said a priest old enough to have watched its whole course, "is the question of truth in social life. These disillusioned intellectuals were turning to the Church not only as a political haven, he thought, but because, whatever their reservations about theology or policy, they felt it to be a place of truth."

It is also a place which, long before the Popieluszko affair, experienced the truth about the darker side of Poland's political life. There is a corner of the Old Town of Warsaw, that eerie 30-year-old medieval citadel, resurfaced on the bones of Europe's most heroic mass grave, which came to seem to me like a working model of this underside of the system. Two narrow, parallel streets connect the Castle Square with the Old Town Square, and something of a tourist trap, with such exotic delights as a gypsy band in a bar opposite the Cafe Lascaris that plays "You're The Cream In My Coffee" singer-style. One of these streets, on May 3, Constitution Day, was blocked by a crowd of 2-3,000 people who, in what is now the customary form of such occasions, gathered outside St John's

Cathedral at seven o'clock Mass, devoutly recited the responses, sang the hymns with mounting fervour — and then erupted in a demonstration. Suddenly the air was full of leaflets, two boys hoisted on broad shoulders unfurled a Solidarity banner, and the walls echoed to shouts of "Lech, not Wojciech", "Bujak! Bujak!" (Warsaw's underground Solidarity leader, still uncaught; some said they saw him briefly at an upstairs window), and more ecstatic cries like "Dobroczyński, go to confession!" (Professor Michał Dobroczyński is an elderly Catholic novelist who was persecuted to figure-head the new Front of National Unity, an umbrella for many of the purged and reconstituted cultural and professional unions).

Wedges of police had gathered at either end of the street, but they backed off as the crowd moved away from the cathedral door, and for a time it seemed as if it might gradually dissolve without trouble. As I walked with others toward the Castle Square, however, things took on a different aspect. The ranks of the militia, trotting rank after rank of Zomo riot police in full gear. Instinctively but foolishly I backed into a doorway, raised my camera — and was grabbed from behind by a man who had been walking near me with a girl on his arm, apparently part of the demo. He whistled over two uniformed militia, and I was quickly frog-marched round the corner to a police station in a darker, even narrower street whose name, I managed to take in, was Jesuicka.

Inside, everyone seemed to be on the sort of high customary in such places, on such occasions. Of two people taken before me, one was released. The other was taken to a cell with a faint hole around which had been stuck a kitschy little floral frieze. Young men in jeans and trainers — who in the street might have been mistaken for demonstrators too, but were now revealed to be rather friendly plainclothes men — came and went at speed. It took just over three-quarters of an hour before I was out in Jesuicka

again, minus a film and with a formal receipt for its destruction. Much, much quicker and certainly not less civil than Marylebone Police Station on the night the first cruise missiles arrived at Greenham Common. I told a friend over coffee next morning. He raised an eyebrow. "Jesuicka, as did you say...?" And so I learnt that this was the place where on a May night two years earlier, Grzegorz Przemyski, the student son of the poet Barbara Sadowska, had been beaten so brutally and systematically that he died two days later of massive internal bleeding. Case against the police dismissed a year later "for lack of evidence"; but only after the District Prosecutor had resigned after the original indictment had been altered and weakened.

The pattern of my working model began to emerge. From the door of the cathedral you can see, through a narrow alley the tall tower of another church in Piwna, the adjacent street St Martin's used to belong to some Augustinian friars, but their order was dissolved by the Tsar for taking part in the Uprising of 1831, says a brief history pinned up at the entrance. Now Francis can sisters run it, and from its cloisters another unique and vulnerable Polish institution, directly under the patronage and protection of the Primate, provides legal advice, clothing and medical aid supplied by gifts from sister churches abroad, to political prisoners and their families.

One of its voluntary workers, among a team of doctors, retired people and other former members of the disbanded Writers' Union, was and is Przemyski's mother. The day after her son's beating, Constitution Day once more, when there had been another demonstration in the quarter, plainclothes men from the Ministry of Security, claiming to be chasing demonstrators, broke down a door into the cloisters, wrecked the pharmacy and beat up six of the volunteer workers, among them Barbara Sadowska. I am told that the

lump of granite used to smash the lock has been polished and set into the wall of the cloister. Inscribed with the date, May 3, 1983, and the words: "Mary, Queen of Poland, pray for the enemies of the Church."

At the other end of Piwna Street lives Enochuslaw Geremek, the soft-spoken medieval historian who is Walesa's friend and adviser. In a room at the top of the staircase, quiet and book-lined like any don's study, he told me, at the end of a long speculation about Poland's future, about an article by him which I'd been surprised to find in a little Catholic weekly in the porch of St Martin's. (Surprised, because this was just after he had been dismissed from his job at the Academy of Sciences.)

He is a specialist in medieval French history, especially Church history, and this piece tells briefly the extraordinary story of a fourteenth-century moral panic that swept Europe about a "lepers' plot" against society. There were terrible trials and burnings, and at Benders he had found the record of a lepers' classic "self-accusation" — that yes, lepers did have a hatred of the "clean" world.

How much of it was true? Had there really been an international meeting of lepers in Toulouse in 1321, I asked him? "I don't know. All I know is that the panic was real and the flames were real." Warsaw gossip is that the censor was baffled ("We think there's something political in this paper, but I can't tell you what it is"). Little light relief. But later, when I happened to be passing, I watched his "shadow" emerge like clockwork from the doorways of a cafe at the corner.

Knowing how the culture of our own secret police seems to represent the nightmarish of British political life, one thinks what scary Stalinist monsters must move at the bottom of this deeper, darker pond, nudging smaller predators like Piotrowski into bloody and unpredictable action. At any rate, one is grateful not to be "protected" quite so blatantly in England

With such thoughts in mind — as well as news of the recent, and also, I was told, fairly brutal arrest of a young architect, Czesław Bielecki, alleged to have been running an underground publishing house — I asked two very intelligent supporters and occasional advisers of the General and his colleagues whether they thought that security policy was becoming more aggressive. Also, how it was that

the underground press generally seemed to survive so robustly. "There will be continuous pressure," said Professor Jerzy Wiatr, the social scientist who ran the Party's own policy research unit until he ran into Soviet criticism and suffered a "merger". ("These are facts, but connection is proved between them," he insisted, firmly addressing The Record.) I don't think, however, that there will be any dramatic change.

"It's a small part of a much larger problem. Why is the government unable to crush the underground? Because it could crush them only by adopting much more repressive measures, mean, making any kind of contact or assistance to the underground a crime and punishing the people surrounding the hard core."

In other words, if the government adopted a Czechoslovak line of truly persecuting all opponents, it would either cause an upheaval or crush the underground. But the government doesn't want to transform Poland into a kind of relatively civilised concentration camp. "It's a matter of what Jaruzelski wants to be remembered for. He certainly wants to be remembered as the leader who saved Poland from the disaster of late '81. And that he has in his record. But he also wants to be remembered as the one who made socialism in Poland a system that works and can be accepted — not as the lesser of two evils but as a good system; for which, of course, we must solve the economic problem. Even more than this — and he knows it — he must create a system in which most people can feel

comfortable. And he cannot combine this with oppression." That is the benign thesis, perhaps significantly reinforced when a fortnight ago, six months after the killing of Father Popieluszko, the politburo briefly announced that it had "accepted the resignation" of Czesław Milewski, the unloved former Minister of the Interior who had been the Party's own security eminence at the time.

On good days, at any rate, it looks fairly colourable, especially in Warsaw society, which reminds me sometimes of Dublin society where everyone is expected to be related, making one think of Poland as a smaller country than it actually is.

Look at the rum connections of some of the principal actors in this stage of the drama. Cardinal Glemp is a man of the people, somewhat patronised by posher elements among his flock — "the little Glemp from East Prussia" — who do not forget that his brother-in-law is the Communist mayor of a small country town. On the other hand General Jaruzelski, leader of this more militarised than militant Communist regime, is of the Lithuanian party gentry, and his sister was married to a professor at the Catholic University of Lublin (... and he went to a good school, run by a Marist friar, rumoured by some old priest, with a twinkle).

Then there is vice-premier Rakowski, whose sons are said to live in the other half of Europe, and whose first wife was an ardent KOR supporter. And the government's official spokesman, Jerzy Urban, whose daughter recently married a young man involved in political offences. This very human muddle is not an ideal recipe for the harsh and unbending application of "administrative measures," as the cant has it.

The other adviser I put my questions to, who, as they say, preferred to remain anonymous, took us into deeper waters. First, as to administrative harassment, he served this as a security scholar with the face of a young Irish Jesuit: "Your miners' strike: was it not a somewhat harsh and protected business? And do you not think it would have been resolved much more quickly and painlessly if the British economy had been in better condition?"

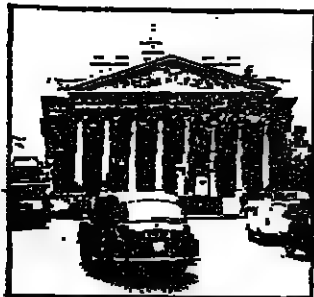
That the Polish government had very little room for manoeuvre was true, he agreed — and he was indeed forced to do things that it might not wish to do. I pressed him further. Wasn't it the case that the government saw no real prospect of a solution to the country's economic problems and was just hanging on grimly? Wasn't Pankratz, as Keynes has said in the Twenties, an economic impossibility?

At which point, the discussion changed gear and we were looking directly into the dilemma which had been at the heart of last month's Warsaw Pact meeting (though it wasn't openly described in that way). Poland's economy isn't the problem, only the point at which the problem's more frightening consequences were likely to show first.

For the fear is real that the arms race is first and most dangerously an economic war, a plan "to spend 'em back into the Stone Age", and they do not know in Moscow how to afford the cost of matching an increasingly expensive new "offensive" without then reducing living standards beyond what's politically tolerable (a dilemma that can't even be rationally discussed with their populations). And the weaker elements of the system, concluded my very serious and entirely persuasive little Jesuit, "are in most danger."

Poor General Jaruzelski. Poor Poland in its geo-political trap. No longer just "Europe's rheumatism", but once more threatened by history with being turned into what Roosevelt called it: "... the headache of the world."

Renault may well have changed gear, but has it taken the handbrake off?



NOTEBOOK

Edited by
Hamish McRae

RENAULT has bitten the bullet. It is now planning to shave 21,000 jobs or more than 20 per cent of its labour force — by the end of the next year. But will it be enough?

What is happening is that Renault is going through a similar sort of adjustment as our own B.I. went through, but with one advantage. Its advantage is that it has an acceptable product range, in the way the B.I. did not when Sir Michael Edwards took over. But on the actual arithmetic, the job cuts — dramatic though they are — do not look enough.

The cut in the labour force, if it goes to plan, would be a touch under 100,000 at the end of last year to 77,000 at the end of next.

But to become competitive with other European manufacturers, on the group's own

figures requires it to increase productivity from 14 cars per worker per year to 14 cars a year, a 40 per cent increase. In other words it has to increase its production as well as cutting the labour force if it is to reach its target.

Is this credible? The European car market is not likely to rise significantly next year, and the increase of imports in particular from Japan seems unlikely to be checked, according to the company, on a modest rise in domestic penetration, from just under 30 per cent so far this year to 31.33 per cent in 1986. The rest of the balance presumably will have to be unloaded abroad. So the whole arithmetic also requires a rise in penetration in markets like the UK.

Expect some even steeper discounts on Renaults in the next year or so here.

Crude pressure

SHEIKH YAMANI helped cause a bunch of the flitters in London markets yesterday by suggesting that the Saudis would press for a cut in the price of heavy crude, though interestingly the oil spot market took the news more calmly than the equity market.

This is because it has a closer feel for the current supply/demand balance for the various types of crude. The problem, in a nutshell, is that with the end of the miners' strike, the demand for heavy crude will increase. Saudi heavy crude is only cost \$13 a barrel less than light crude, was being competitive.

But any change in oil prices differentials raises the question of whether only one end moves or whether both do. The heavy crude producers, by geological con-

ditions, tend to be conservative. The light crude producers tend to be radical and West-African countries like Libya or Algeria.

So every time the question of differential comes up, it causes a row within Opec, for the radicals want to alter the gap so as to increase the general level of prices, while the conservatives don't.

The current debate looks like following form. Were the Saudis to press ahead with the mooted cut of \$1 a barrel in the price of heavy crude, this might squeeze the light producers too hard, increasing the danger of a break-up of Opec and the sort of uncontrolled downward slide in oil prices which would give our Treasury mandarins nightmares.

But on past form this will not happen, and a smaller cut will suffice.

Steinberg sells

MAYBE we ought to be just a little bit grateful to Mr. Steinberg. His announcement yesterday that his US company no longer owned any interest in the shares sent the shares plunging.

The work had ended, round, the quarry and then, so to speak, cocked its leg up and wandered off. We do not yet know what has happened to his share interest, and until we do there does not seem a lot of point of speculating whether another potential bidder is in sight. But the episode should have left us with a few useful lessons.

The first is that even known predators do walk away. That should discourage the "can chub" which tends to stick itself to such operators, thereby increasing their leverage. If some people have lost money be-

cause they believed in the share tips that have been floating around that is no bad thing for the health of the system.

The second is that whenever a sector stands by below its break-up value, it will inevitably attract takeover attention. In fact the engineering sector last year enjoyed (or suffered) a lower than average incidence of takeovers, according to Monopolies Commission figures. But the whole sector has of course been ramped by every trader wanting to make a quick turn.

So TI, Lucas and GKN have all been subjected to a spate of rumours. All of these remain prime takeover targets in the sense that the sum is worth less than the parts. As yet none have gone. In practical terms the retail sector has been a more fruitful ground for speculation.

Taxing time

IT WILL take a day or two before the full impact of the new US tax proposals will be properly assessed, by Wall Street. The proposals, however, are intended to be more or less revenue neutral. There is a revenue loss of a couple of billion, but nothing significant.

But it is worth highlighting the fact that the original Reagan tax reform package was intended to boost the deficit.

It seems sensible to expect the same sort of political trimming to take place again, where the tax cuts are passed by Congress and the tax increases are not. Result: a still larger deficit. This could be the last great public accountancy story of the Reagan era, and the markets have only just begun to think through its implications.

Oil back to normal as manufacturing slips

Britain's trade balance is back in the black

By John Hooper,
Trade Correspondent

The balance of payments went back into the black last month as trade in oil resumed its normal pattern after the miners' strike. The current account showed a surplus of £123 million.

But the deterioration of Britain's trading balance in manufactured goods continued. In the three months to the end of April, the non-oil trade deficit was £629 million, greater than during the corresponding period of last year.

In recent months oil imports have been running at £700 to £800 million and oil exports at £1,500 to £1,700 million. But in March oil purchases shot up to £1,321 million as oil companies strove to rebuild stocks depleted by the miners' strike.

This drastically reduced the oil surplus and contributed to a record deficit in visible trade that pushed the current

account into the red after five months in the black.

Last month, oil imports fell back to a run-of-the-mill \$844 million which, when taken with exports of £1,528 million, left a rather more healthy surplus of \$684 million on the oil account.

This helped the visible trade balance to show a more modest deficit of £277 million. Invisibles were expected to show a surplus of £400 million. The deterioration in the balance of trade in manufactured goods is not quite as dramatic when so-called erratics such as ships, aircraft, North Sea installations and precious stones are taken out. But the deficit has nonetheless grown — by £158 million over the last twelve months.

Yet, and this is a statistical quirk that will allow both camps in the dispute over Britain's trading performance to claim support for their argu-

ments — exports are continuing to grow faster than imports.

Excluding erratics, British exports during the last three months were 23 per cent higher than during the same period last year, yet our imports were only 20 per cent higher.

Sales to the US have played an important part in the recent export boom — a predictable consequence of the pound's weakness against the dollar. When the last trade figures were released there was some concern that the surge of exports to the US might be tailing off.

But after falling to \$238 million in March from \$268 million in February, they bounced back to more than £1,000 million last month. The total for the three months to the end of April was the highest figure for any three-month period in recent years.

Firms urged to play the game

By Mary Brasier

Major British companies, with products from chocolate to steel, are being invited to put up £15 million towards the building of an indoor sports and leisure centre in London's docklands.

The project will create the country's largest covered arena to cater for sports training, spectator events, pop concerts, on a site on the former Isle of Dogs, with seating for 10,000 in the main auditorium. The total cost is £17.2 million, of which £2 million has already been found from public funds and sporting charities.

The rest is being sought from corporate investors, particularly those with well-known brand names who are likely to advertise at events, or whose products might be used in the development and running of the arena.

They will be asked to put up at least £750,000 for a minimum five per cent stake, of which £180,000 is needed by July this year. The athletics commentator and former UK coach, Mr Roger Pickering, and the sports promoter, Mr Harvey Goldsmith, are behind the

scheme as directors of a new company, London Docklands Arena.

The project started in 1982, when it was to build a 100,000 sq ft arena for training and unit use. Boris Yeltsin put £3 million into building works to convert a former banana warehouse. The scheme was expanded this year to make it commercially viable by putting in seating and television facilities. At the suggestion of Mr Goldsmith it was decided to raise the roof of the original building to cater for more people.

LD Arena forecasts turnover of £2.9 million in the first year of operation, which it all goes to plan should be 1987, and a profit of £98,000 by 1989. Shareholders are being asked to subscribe for a maximum of £10 million of equity and £4.5 million of loan stock.

The return on their cash is put at 15.5 per cent by 1992, but they also have the benefit of tax allowances, their own in the arena, and the chance to operate concessions in the centre. LD Arena hopes

to go public on the Unlisted Securities Market eventually.

A brochure was being sent out by bankers Kildewart Benson to a list of 30 names yesterday. Mecca is expected to take a stake in the scheme and will run the catering concession. It is hoped Boris and GEC will also subscribe.

Mr Pickering's own company, and Alfred Bestall's, will run the sporting and spectator events. LD Arena has allocated 50 days to sporting events, 50 to concerts, rallies, and so on, and the rest of the time the centre will be used for training and for community events.

The docklands light railway will run to the arena's door, and an independent hotel development is taking place alongside the site. The company hopes it will be able to stage major events like the European Indoor Athletics Championships.

Mr Pickering, who grew up in docklands, said yesterday: "This is going to be one of the most exciting sites London has seen. It will provide badly needed training facilities for a variety of sports."

European Ferries to raise £71m

By Andrew Connolly

EUROPEAN Ferries, the Townsend Thoresen ferries group, raising £71 million from shareholders to help fund a huge investment spending spree.

"Months of serious activity within the group will culminate this summer with the announcement of a £70 million order for new cross-channel ferries, as part of the continuing improvement of the Thomson fleet. Euroferries has already committed £30 million to modernising four existing cross-channel ferries and earlier this year agreed the £125 million takeover of P&O's cross-channel ferry business."

Shareholders are being offered one new £1 convertible preference share (with no rights to concessionary fares) for every three existing ordinary shares. The convertible preference shares may be converted into ordinary

Heath-Hogg merger plan flops

By Mary Brasier

Plans for a £300 million merger of Lloyd's brokers C. Heath and Hogg Robinson have flopped. The two groups yesterday called off talks which had been taking place for some months to create a new broking business in the London market.

The parting was amicable but both sides said they were unable to agree terms for a merger. A big stumbling block was Heath's troubles in Australia, which have depressed its share price, so that its rating was only half that of Hogg Robinson's. A move by the Victoria State Government to nationalise workers compensation insurance is likely to reduce Heath's underwriting income in the short term.

Heath's financial director, Mr Peter Freeland said: "We had solved most of the outstanding issues but in analysing the make-up of profits, we discovered they shared the market's reservations about the future of our Australian operations and we were bothered about the high content of their underwriting contribution against the background of investment. Both sides are disappointed that the talks have failed."

Heath said the larger of the two ranks as the fifth largest UK broker, Hogg is sixth. Hogg Robinson's annual director, Mr Andrew Hankey said they could see "no compelling advantages to a merger." "It looked superficially as though the two companies were a good fit. But when you get below the surface, it was not going to work in practice."

Hogg Robinson shares slipped 4p on the stock exchange yesterday to 263p while Heath rose 7p to 620p.

Hogg is now expected to go ahead with plans to forge closer links with the US. There was speculation a year ago that the group might receive an American takeover bid, but the board has been concentrating recently on attempts to buy out the outstanding 50 per cent of Republic Hogg Robinson. "Unless we take the opportunity to deal with the other half we may lose it," Mr Hankey commented yesterday. He said the Heath merger was putting the possibility of a buy-out in jeopardy. Hogg is also keen to develop its travel business.

The initiative for the merger discussions is thought to have come from the Heath chairman, Mr Derek Newton against a background of realignments worldwide which have led to Sedgwick combining with the US group Fred S. James and a move to bigger, more powerful broking houses. Heath said yesterday it planned to concentrate on increasing the proportion of its UK profits and expanding its broking base. "We will be seeking ways organically and otherwise of meeting those objectives." One option open to the board is to sell off its Bermudan reinsurance company possibly by way of a management buy-out.

Lloyds set to go it alone

By Margaret Pagano,
City Correspondent

Lloyds Bank yesterday reiterated its commitment to go it alone in the financial services revolution when it unveiled further details of its new merchant banking arm.

With initial share capital of £55 million the new Lloyds Merchant Bank will draw together the range of Lloyds existing merchant banking activities under one roof. LMB, which starts trading in July, will concentrate on corporate finance, investment management, capital markets, export and project finance and development capital.

Another £25 million capital has been earmarked for LMB's

proposed primary gifts dealer ship. Mr Robert Owen, LMB's managing director, said the new gifts market is absolutely fundamental to the bank's operations and its service to investors. A managing director to head the gifts dealer has been recruited.

He said that Lloyds' activities had grown so rapidly in the last few years that they had reached a point where they can stand on their own feet. "There is no question that the issue of identity has been very important in our minds. Perception is often more important than reality."

While acknowledging that LMB is small-try, compared with some of the giant financial groups which have been

formed he said LMB would seek to expand its specialist niches. Further capital could become available if needed.

Lloyds group chief executive, Mr Brian Pitman, said it had deliberately channelled buying out stockbroking or jobbing firms at fancy prices because of the costs involved and culture differences. He added there were no immediate plans to make markets in equities although the bank may develop its retail business through a low-cost discount broking service.

LMB at present employs some 350 people worldwide and this could expand to around 80 over the next few years.

Sinclair rescue delay

By Maggie Brown

The hunt to find the £10 to £15 million required to rescue Sir Clive Sinclair's home computer firm, Sinclair Research, is being held up until additional accounts for the last trading year, ending March 31, are produced.

The auditors, Deloitte Haskins & Sells, are finalising the report and accounts, and until a complete picture of the company's financial state is known, detailed discussions with the one or two industrial backers possibly prepared to rescue the company cannot take place.

The accounts are due by tomorrow, but a key issue is likely to be how much of the £34 million of unpaid stock being carried by the company is due to a poorer than expected Christmas sales period, which was followed by price-cuts, needs to be written off.

Discussions with possible partners are not likely to start until next week, but thanks to Sinclair's lowish bank borrowings of £5 million the firm is not under such serious pressure as was Acorn earlier this year. Its rescue is being led by Olivetti, the Italian computer and office equipment group.

The fate of Sir Clive's electric bicycle venture, judged by the trade embargo collapsed here yesterday when the GATT council decided to postpone any decision for an indefinite period while the chairman of the council, Japan's ambassador in Geneva, decides whether and how the issue can be raised again.

This convoluted decision almost certainly means that Nicaragua's complaint is dead. Delegates agreed that there is little appetite for raising it

BT satellite expansion

By our Financial Staff

British Telecom is on the brink of expanding into providing satellite television reception systems for homes and hotels, following the government's decision last week to relax the licensing rules.

BT expects to offer a complete package, including the supply of satellite receiver dishes, link-up cable systems to homes from the dish, an installation service using BT engineers, and programming through its BT Broadband Services office. The go-ahead is expected this week.

A price war provoked by competition also broke out yesterday as BT announced a 20

per cent tariff cut on its Satstream satellite business communications service between London and North America. This brings it closer into line with its UK competitor, Mercury Communications, now owned by Cable & Wireless.

The new tariffs, reduced after a year of operation, mean the 64 kilobit capacity link costs \$29,500, compared with the \$34,000 Mercury charges for its New York service started up in February. BT also announced a new business satellite communications service to the Continent yesterday, called Satstream Europe.

Milk output warning

By Rosemary Collins,
Agricultural Correspondent

Tighter controls over milk production will inevitably have to be introduced, Mr Michael Jopling, the agriculture minister, told the Dairy Trade Federation yesterday. Even with the quota system introduced last year, the year's EEC milk output will be an estimated 13 per cent, of 12 million tonnes, above consumption levels.

Mr Jopling said that he was prepared to consider seriously the EEC Commission's suggestion that farmers willing to reduce milk production should be compensated, and their quota abolished, although he would take the industry's views into account before coming to a final decision.

The Dairy Trade Federation gave the minister a rough reception. The milk marketing scheme was on the point of collapse, relations between DTF and the Milk Marketing Board at a low ebb, and confidence in the ministry itself strained to breaking point. DTF president Mr Chris Ball told Mr Jopling: "I have to confess to a feeling of despair in relation to the attitudes as well as the action of the ministry and the MMB."

Mr Jopling admitted that it had been "a uniquely difficult year" for the milk industry, but said that there were encouraging signs for the future.

TWA sets out to attract a buyer

From Mark Tran
in Washington

Officials at the Trans World Airlines company — which has offered itself to the highest bidder — acknowledged yesterday that it would be difficult to find a friendly buyer. The directors of TWA voted unanimously on Tuesday to put the airline, the fifth largest US carrier, up for sale after a New York federal court

refused to block an \$18 a share offer from Mr Carl Icahn.

The directors formally rejected Mr Icahn's \$800 million bid, saying it did not reflect fully the value of the airline. But a TWA official admitted that potential buyers might be put off by Mr Icahn's stake in the company. He owns at least 25 per cent of the shares and may have increased

it last week since there was heavy trading in the company's shares, which stood at \$17.75.

An airline analyst for Shearson Lehman Brothers, Mr Robert Joedleke, said: "The more he's got, the more difficult it is for somebody else to make a friendly bid." He also noted that the price would have to be high enough to persuade Mr Icahn to sell his

Nicaragua trade embargo appeal fails

From John Guest
in Geneva

A complaint in the GATT by Nicaragua against the US over the trade embargo collapsed here yesterday when the GATT council decided to postpone any decision for an indefinite period while the chairman of the council, Japan's ambassador in Geneva, decides whether and how the issue can be raised again.

This convoluted decision almost certainly means that Nicaragua's complaint is dead. Delegates agreed that there is little appetite for raising it

curry interests were, and that no justification was necessary. According to sources, Britain insisted beforehand to its European partners that it would not agree to any EEC statement which implied criticism of the US in 1982. Britain imposed sanctions against Argentina during the Falklands war, a decision which was supported, although not followed, by the US.

Nicaragua's vice minister for foreign trade, Orlando Soler, pointed out yesterday that the American trade embargo would hit industry and the agricultural sector, which are 60 per cent privately owned. The failure of the council to take a firm position has already re-awakened fears that Article 21 of the GATT is a convenient instrument for allowing large trading nations to take political discrimination measures against smaller countries which have no chance of retaliation.

Several delegates warned that this could diminish confidence in the agency on the eve of a new round of trade talks.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Foreign aid cuts attacked

THE CHAIRMAN of the Crown Agents, Mr Peter Graham, yesterday stepped up his attack on the cuts in international aid to developing countries. "They are in the long run bound to be fit to the wealthy nations," he wrote in the CA's annual review.

He described the cutback in the International Development Association's allocation of \$9 billion, compared with the \$16 billion sought by the World Bank, as a "serious step backward," especially at a time when calls for assistance have risen.

THE TREASURY has decided that neither the government nor the Bank of England has the responsibility to disclose any tax changes which may be decided, but not announced, even when they may affect terms and conditions on which gifts are sold to the public.

MICHAEL Jordan of accountants Cork Gully has been appointed receiver to the collapsed US plane-maker, Lear Fan, which failed over the weekend. The British Government will have to pay about £57 million.

DISSENTING shareholder groups backed by the Greater London Council are threatening to disrupt today's annual shareholders' meeting of the Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation, the giant mining group. The dissenters will protest about the effects of the company's activities in the UK, Australia, Canada and Namibia.

APPLICANTS for shares in Wold, the frozen food supplier whose offer of 5.26 million shares was 3 times oversubscribed, will receive 200 shares if successful in the weighted ballot for applications up to 1,000 shares. Thereafter, 300 or 400 shares will be issued to those successful in the draw for larger applications and subscriptions for 10,000 shares or more will receive allotments of about 3 per cent. There were over 27,000 subscribers.

GROUP LOTUS, the sports car group where British car actions, Toyota and J. C. Bamford have sizeable stakes, is planning to expand its 500-strong work force at Hethel in Norfolk.

POLLY PECK INTERNATIONAL PLC

RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS
ENDED 1ST MARCH 1985

(Unaudited)	1985	1984	Increase
Turnover	£82.8m	£58.7m	41%
Profit before taxation	£28.2m	£21.4m	32%
Profit after taxation	£23.8m	£17.0m	40%
Earnings per share	25.2p	18.8p	34%
Dividend per share (net)	1.5p	1.0p	50%

THE FUTURE

"Vast opportunities and rapid growth await investors in Turkey's major industrial sectors."

FINANCIAL TIMES 20.5.85

"The Turkish economy will continue not only to expand but to become more oriented to sophisticated international financing and trading operations."

ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE UNIT QUARTERLY ECONOMIC REVIEW OF TURKEY NO.11985

"The board is delighted to see its own confidence in Turkey's economic growth potential becoming more wide-spread."

ASIL NADIR, CHAIRMAN, POLLY PECK INTERNATIONAL PLC 20.5.85

Copies of the full interim statement may be obtained from:
POLLY PECK INTERNATIONAL PLC
The Secretary, 81-91 Commercial Road, London E1 1RD.

The energy shift that makes coal a burning issue

Tomorrow, the Coal Board is due to complete its area-by-area assessment of the industry, still struggling to recover from the year-long miners' strike. What sort of future is there for coal in Britain? John Hooper, our Energy Correspondent, looks at the hard road ahead.



Getting at reserves is costly

TOWARDS the end of the 1970s, National Coal Board engineers began probing the reserves which were known to exist to the south of the Daw Mill and Coventry collieries in Warwickshire. "By the time they'd got south of Leamington Spa they were still boring into continuous coal," said an NCB executive. "What you have there is probably the biggest untouched coalfield in Europe, if not the world."

To outsiders — and indeed to many insiders, notably in the National Union of Mineworkers — it is difficult to see why a business with such apparent long-term strength should seem to be fighting for its life in the short-term.

To understand the paradox one has to understand the largely unreported shift in the perceptions of energy needs which has taken place over the last 10 years globally and within Britain.

The Opec price "shock" of 1974 prompted a recognition not only of the vulnerability of the world's hydrocarbon supplies but also of the fact that they were finite. The figures for reserves

showed that at current rates of consumption there was only enough crude oil for about 35 years and enough natural gas for 50 or 60.

What would happen when the oil and gas "ran out"? Coal, with worldwide reserves sufficient for 200 to 300 years, was the obvious replacement and a number of analyses, culminating in the World Coal Study reports in 1979 and 1980, predicted a huge rise in coal production by the end of the century.

What tended to be overlooked was that with the incentive provided by higher prices, oil and gas reserves could be replaced by determined exploration at much the same rate that they were used up. Today, there are more or less as many years of oil and gas consumption left as there were in the mid-seventies.

That does not mean that the oil and gas will not eventually run out, but the thinking about what will happen when it does has also changed. For a start, there is only a limited number of energy uses for which electricity is not suitable — and

electricity can be generated from nuclear and renewable sources as well as from coal. Indeed, their proponents would argue that the first is cheaper, and the second cleaner.

It is not implausible to foresee a distant future in which the prime use of coal would be in liquefied or gaseous form as a source of energy in those transportation uses in which electricity cannot be employed.

Accepting the more general view that coal will also play a big part in electricity generation, there is no inherent reason why British coal should have a particularly important role. Even if the NCB's account of its reserves, which is that they are sufficient for 300 years of consumption at present rates, is correct — and they have been authoritatively questioned by the British Geological Survey — they only comprise about 1 per cent of world reserves. In any case, getting at them could prove to be costlier in both commercial and environmental terms than it would be in other parts of the world.

That leaves the "security of supply" argument. Here again, though, one runs up against the fact that a healthy proportion of the world's reserves are in the hands of nations which are, for the moment at least, friendly to Britain.

The case for coal, therefore, no longer rests — as it did 10 years ago when Plan for Coal was drafted — on its being the "fuel of the future." But that is not to say that a case for coal cannot be made out at all.

However, whether the Coal Board succeeds in holding on to its markets — or rather recovering them, since many were lost during the strike — will depend on whether the NCB's coal can compete successfully with foreign coal and other fuels at the same time as the board struggles to meet the government's demand that it start to show a profit during the financial year after next. NCB executives are convinced it can, but the difficulties which face them are considerable.

The underlying problem was highlighted last month when the NCB staged an exhibition at Trentham in

Staffordshire to prove to industrialists that by using the technology that has become available in recent years, coal burning need not be the dusty, grimy, inconvenient business that it was in the past.

It also provided the Coal Board's dynamic sales director, Mr Malcolm Edwards, with an opportunity to tell businessmen that the strike had exorcised what he called "the ghost of Scargill." A few hours later, Nacods called its overtime ban. One senior Coal Board official called the conjunction of events "a terrible, screaming shame."

For a fuel to be competitive it needs to be more than just cheap. "The first thing our clients say to us," said an energy consultant, "is 'I couldn't care less about saving a few pence a tonne if it means losing the relationship I've got with my supplier.'"

The only way in which the NCB can make its output cheaper "is by rationalising its productive capacity. But in doing so — or rather by doing so in the manner chosen by Mr MacGregor — it

risks destroying its claim to be a secure source of supply. This is a particular important consideration in the industrial market which the Coal Board officials identify as the most promising area for expansion. There is talk of quadrupling sales, which were running at just over seven million tonnes in 1983, by the end of the century. It is essentially a matter of persuading industrialists who made expensive investments before 1974 in oil-fired boilers, most of which still have a decade or more of life left in them that it is worth their while converting back to coal.

The domestic market, where sales amounted to almost eight million tonnes in the year before the strike, occupies a slightly lower priority at the NCB's headquarters. But there is evidence to suggest that it too could provide scope for expansion.

Northern Ireland, which accounts for a disproportionately large share of the total, has been secured for coal by the government's refusal to sanction the import of natural gas from the Republic. In the rest of the UK, domestic

coal-burning has for some time been most prevalent at the top and the bottom of the social scales. One of the main reasons for this is the simple one that a lot of the houses built in recent decades do not have chimneys because builders have found them costly and difficult to install. The advent of brick-clad chimney modules has started to change things rapidly — the proportion of houses built with chimneys rose from 13 per cent in 1983 to 24 per cent in 1984.

In the final analysis, however, the key to coal's performance lies — as it has for some time now — in the hands of the electricity supply industry. In 1983, 81.6 million tonnes — almost three-quarters of all the coal consumed in Britain — went into power stations. The lion's share was bought by the CEBG whose contract with the NCB, worth more than £3 billion, is the biggest fuel transaction outside the Soviet bloc.

Whether it likes it or not, the CEBG is tied to the NCB by a commitment that 95 per cent of the coal it buys must come from the Coal Board.

There is no doubt that the CEBG would like to loosen the link and will be pressing to do so when its contract with the NCB comes up for its annual revision in November.

By then, moreover, a series of developments is due to take place that will make a decline in coal's share of the CEBG market inevitable. Three nuclear power plants — Dungeness B, Hartlepool, and Heysham 1 — will have been fully commissioned and a cross-channel link will be in place, capable of importing in a period of 12 months supplies of electricity equivalent to that generated by three million tonnes of coal.

Even when further planned conversion from oil to coal is discounted, the NCB calculates that the net effect will be to reduce the demand for coal by about six million tonnes a year — almost 5 per cent of the NCB's total output prior to the strike.

To counter this formidable threat, the Board's officials have devised some creative thinking. Their conclusion is that even if their share of CEBG energy consumption is doomed to fall, their sales to its power stations do not have to drop provided that the CEBG's total energy consumption increases and that the increase comes entirely or principally from coal. The trick, therefore, is to start by increasing sales of electricity rather than sales of coal.

A number of his actual and potential customers for electricity are not using as much of it as they might because the tariffs are structured in a way that does not give industry the same degree of preferential treatment that it gets in many other countries.

One way around this might be to provide the CEBG with a "dedicated tonnage" for conversion into electricity for heavy consumers. The idea, which is being seriously considered at the Department of Energy, is received with something less than enthusiasm at the CEBG where it is regarded as an interference in policy-making and a further potential distortion of a pricing structure whose original aim — as set out in the CEBG's charter — was to provide electricity for all without favour.

But unless this or some similarly ingenious idea is adopted, it is difficult to see how the expected increases in the level of industrial and domestic demand for coal itself can offset the drop in consumption at power stations.

Harrisons & Crosfield

SUMMARY OF RESULTS (Subject to Audit)

	1984	1983
Group profit before interest and taxation	97.3	65.7
Group profit before taxation	83.2	56.6
Extraordinary items	10.8	(4.6)
Attributable to Ordinary shareholders	58.0	26.0
Earnings per Ordinary share	38.8p	24.5p
Dividends per Ordinary share	20.0p	17.0p

1984 was a good year. Pre-tax profits were up by 47% to £83.2 million. Earnings per share increased by 58% to 38.8p. Ordinary dividend at 20p is now nearly twice covered. Shareholders' funds now exceed £500 million.

Plantations

Profit before interest £49.4m (1983 £22.1m). All the Group's Plantation interests produced higher crops. This fine achievement, combined with the realisation of good prices which in a number of cases were above average, earned profits in the aggregate substantially above those reported in 1983.

Chemicals and Industrial

Profit before interest £16.0m (1983 £13.9m). Led by British Chrome & Chemicals, profits from all the UK and European manufacturing operations were ahead of the previous year. Good performances in chemical distribution from Australia, UK and two of the American units were not matched by the companies along the North East Coast of the USA, or in Canada. In the latter country, which has suffered from lack of buoyancy in its economy for some time, our results were poor but future performance should benefit from remedial measures and the change in Government policies. Most of the Linatex operations provided a satisfactory return, with the exception of the USA where heavy costs were incurred because of investment in new branches.

ORDINARY DIVIDEND

A final dividend of 15.5p per share is recommended by the Board, making a total for 1984 of 20p per share, this being 17.6% up on the total dividend of 17p per share for 1983.

PROSPECTS

Production of the Plantation companies is similar to last year's record output and the UK and European chemical companies have started the year well but against this bad weather in the UK has affected the Timber and Building Supplies division. In North America our chemicals operations still encounter difficulties, especially from cheap imports, but they are making headway. Pauls plc's results will be included from the second quarter of 1985. The early months started slowly but with commodity prices remaining at present levels and some alleviation of competitive pressures in the United States, we would expect an improvement in the trading environment for the Group as a whole for the rest of the year.

The comparative figures for the year ended 31st December 1983 are an extract from the full accounts for that year which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies and on which the auditors gave an unqualified opinion.

HARRISONS & CROSFIELD PLC, 1-4 GREAT TOWER STREET, LONDON EC3R 5AB

Timber and Building Supplies

Profit before interest £11.0m (1983 £11.6m). Profits for the first half of the year were well up to expectations but with reduced housing starts and lower renovation grants, the volume of business dropped quite significantly in the latter part of 1984.

General Trading

Profit before interest £7.5m (1983 £6.8m). The recessionary conditions affecting our Eastern companies have not abated. Excellent results were again achieved by the jute marketing activities, strongly supported by various trading interests, particularly those in New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

Finance

Profit before interest £8.6m (1983 £9.9m).

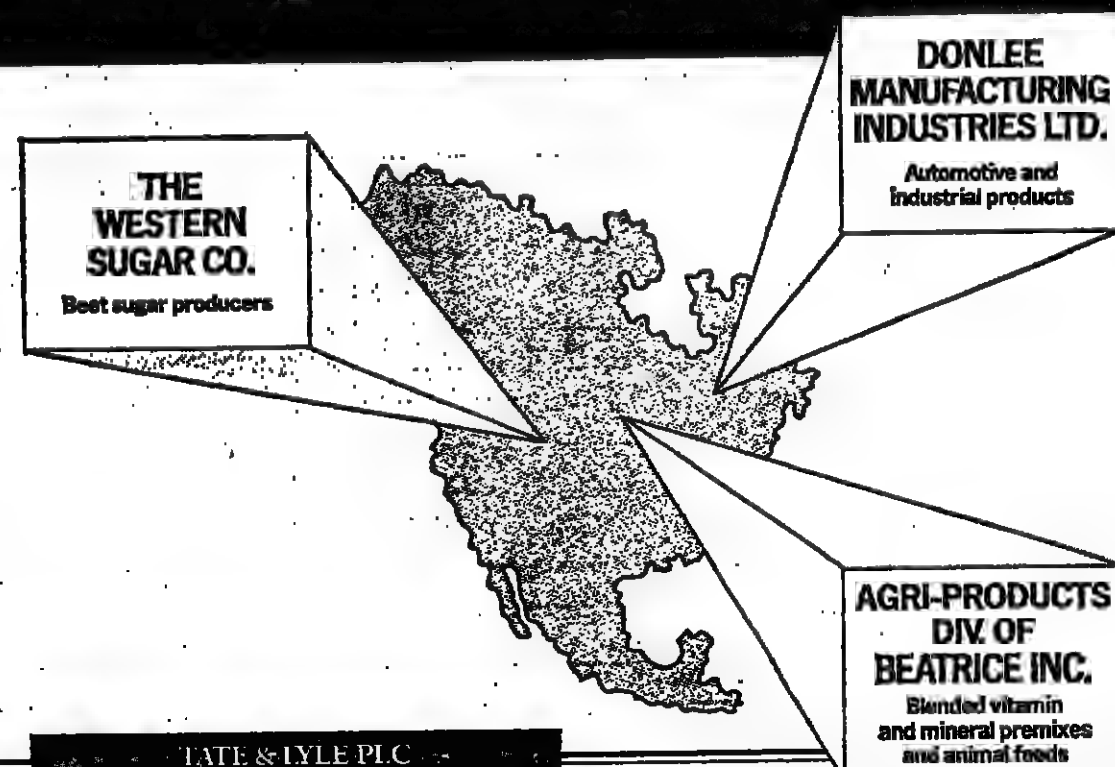
Property disposals

Profit before interest £4.4m (1983 £1.4m). These relate primarily to the disposal of an estate by a related company, Castlefield (Klang) Rubber Estate PLC, prior to the acquisition of that company by Harrisons Malaysian Plantations Berhad.

Extraordinary items

In 1984 these relate primarily to the disposal of the Group's investments in eight small plantation companies and two plantation investment companies to Harrisons Malaysian Plantations Berhad. In 1983 these relate to the taxation and leasing income adjustments arising from the Finance Act 1984.

Further profit growth Major acquisitions



TATE & LYLE PLC UNAUDITED INTERIM RESULTS

	1985 26 WEEKS TO 31 MARCH	1984 26 WEEKS TO 31 MARCH
Pre-tax profits	£31.5m	£27.0m
Interim dividend per £1 ordinary share	7.5p	6.5p
Earnings per £1 ordinary share	20.9p	23.2p

The Chairman, Sir Robert Haslam, reports:—

* Profits before taxation £31.5m for first half, 17% higher than comparable period last year.

* Acquisitions to contribute to second half profits and substantial contribution in 1986 expected.

* Disappointing sugar profits in UK and US caused by squeeze on margins, though trading conditions improving second half. Canada and Portugal refining profits very satisfactory.

* Interim dividend raised by 1p to 7.5p.

The above figures do not constitute full financial statements. Copies of the Interim Report for the 26 weeks to 30 March 1985 are being mailed to shareholders.

Further copies may be obtained from: C. P. McFie, Secretary, Tate & Lyle PLC, Sugar Quay, Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6DQ.

Another Year of Record Results from Rotaflex

YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER	1984 £000	1983 £000	% Increase
TURNOVER	41,434	30,539	36
PROFIT BEFORE TAX*	2,757	1,361	103
PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE*	1,853	980	89
EARNINGS PER ORDINARY SHARE*	16.8p	8.4p	100
DIVIDEND PER ORDINARY SHARE	4.5p	3.2p	41

*After prior year adjustment

"We shall continue our efforts to improve profitability and to promote growth by investing in our traditional businesses and in new complementary activities. The year ahead must be viewed with relative caution following the huge growth and profitability we have achieved...but it is true to say that we have never been better placed to face the future".

Michael Frye
Executive Chairman

THE ROTAFLEX BUSINESSES

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts may be obtained from The Secretary, Rotaflex p.l.c., Concord House, 241 City Road, London EC1Y 1JD



Lifting the burden off the individual

Alex Brummer on Reagan's tax reform plans

PRESIDENT Reagan's comprehensive tax reform plan, sent to Congress yesterday, is an impressive attempt at switching the burden of taxation in the US from individuals to corporations. As a result it is a brilliant effort by Mr Reagan and his Treasury Secretary Mr James Baker to capture the high ground of populist tax reform from the Democrats. Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey and Representative Richard Gephardt of Missouri who pioneered the concept.

The plan has objectives in mind. It is an attempt to change the face of the American political scene in favour of the Republican Party. It is an effort to push along the supply-side revolution begun by Mr Reagan with his highly controversial 1981 tax cuts and it is an effort to change the face of the American political scene.

Democratic ideas such as tax credits for energy conservation are thrown out in favour of new tax credits for such republican favoured ideas as private school tuition.

For Americans and governments around the world who have lived through Mr Reagan's 1981 tax cut plan the warning bells are certain to ring when they read the new tax proposals. In his introduction to the 460 page document President Reagan argues that the US faces "an historic challenge." The challenge, as he defines it, is to "change our present tax system into a model of fairness, simplicity, efficiency and compassion to remove obstacles to growth and unlock the door to a future of unparalleled innovation and achievement."

It was this kind of overblown rhetoric which was used in 1981 to sell Mr Reagan's 25 per cent tax cuts to individuals and the massive tax concessions made to corporate America. The argument at the time was that the tax cuts would unleash a wave of growth which would raise revenues enough to "wipe out" America's burgeoning budget deficit. As everyone now knows, this proved totally illusory.

In the unlikely event that this new plan were adopted by Congress as proposed there would be a direct switch transfer of revenues from individuals to corporations of \$28 billion in 1987—the first possible year that the new concepts could be applied. By the end of the decade, according to the Treasury figures, individuals would be paying \$28 billion less and corporations some \$25.2 billion more. In other words it is a package designed to please individual voters in the 1988 and 1990 elections who may currently believe—particularly after the Pentagon rip-offs—that corporate America is getting fat at their expense.

However, given the nature of the American Political system there is no reason to believe that the Reagan plan, despite its attempt to be fair will be enacted in anything like its current form. The stamp of compromise is already imprinted over almost every page of this tax plan which has been widely dubbed treasury two. The concessions made to oil and gas interests will have tremendous clout on Capitol Hill and in the Administration.

Bill and in the Administration (both the vice-president Mr George Bush and the Treasury Secretary Mr Baker are members of the Houston Establishment) provide a dramatic case in point.

In Treasury One, published shortly after the election in November 1984, all the tax preferences for oil and gas companies were to be eliminated. Six months later the Treasury, under pressure from oil and gas interests, has discovered that "the downturn in oil prices in recent years has already caused a substantial decline in oil drilling activity." In this climate, the new tax plan concludes, a changing of the law as it applies to energy companies might "reduce domestic oil production...and exacerbate the trade deficit." The answer is to leave things basically as they are.

If the case can be made for oil and gas it can also be made for other products. Why not an exemption for the hard pressed steel companies who are seeking to modernise plant and equipment in the face of strong competition from overseas? Or what about Detroit which continues to struggle against the influx of cars from overseas. And if oil and gas is so important strategically, surely it is only right that General Dynamics, the largest Pentagon contractor, be given some tax relief. The list could go on endlessly.

Even tax shelters, perhaps the least justifiable element of the present tax code, provisions which allow individuals and companies with the best lawyers and accountants have been retained in a limited form. The Administration, because of its determination for a key political success in its second term, has opened the door to the special interest—and it can now expect them to come crowding through.

Curious reading of the bulky and detailed tax document throws up a series of special interests who might be looking for concessions when the Bill comes up for hearings in the House Ways and Means committee this week and over the coming months. In the finance sector, the Bill would clobber life insurance and banking enterprises. "Current law," the report notes, "provides more favourable treatment of bad debt for depository institutions than to lenders in other industries." As a result it proposes to eliminate this special treatment for banks.

The reason for making such heavy weather of the banks is that like the oil companies they provide a good illustration of how the supply-side purity of the Tax Bill could be radically altered on Capitol Hill. With each alteration, the Treasury will be giving up some income. Yet the likelihood is that for political reasons alone the individual tax cuts will become immutable: no politician in his right mind is going to vote against tax cuts for individuals which have been proposed by a president who despite bitburg is still enormously popular in the country.

Much of the public debate is certain to be focused on the impact on individuals of the tax-reform package. The

Administration will be anxious to avoid the suggestion that this tax package, like its 1981 predecessor, favours the rich over the poor. The new Bill will replace the existing 14 tax bands ranging from 11 per cent to the 50 per cent top rate with three bands at 15 per cent, 25 per cent, and 35 per cent. Perhaps the fairest aspect of this is that taxpayers earning less than \$12,000 a year—who under existing law could pay up to 18 per cent—will pay nothing.

Under the Reagan plan on average all families will save some 7 per cent in taxation each year: those earning less than \$20,000 will save 18.3 per cent; those earning between \$20,000 and \$50,000 will save 7.2 per cent and Americans earning above \$50,000 a year will pay some 5.8 per cent less income tax.

The Bill would retain two key forms of tax relief available to all Americans—their charitable deductions and the tax relief on interest payments on mortgages on their first homes. Of the allowances being abolished in the interests of simplification the one likely to cause the most outcry is the deduction for state and local taxes. If one pays taxes to the city of New York at present it is possible to claim relief on the Federal Government's tax return.

This principle will be breached by the new Tax Bill. This means that politicians from the high tax regions of the North-East and Mid-West—where the cities provide greater services—will be fighting strongly to restore this change.

Reckoning day at hand as oil revenues dip

INVESTMENT
Robin Stoddart

CONTRARY to all their good housekeeping intentions, most governments are having to raise money as fast as they have ever done. Such debt issues have not yet proved particularly difficult, but the day of reckoning is at hand in Britain as oil revenues begin to dip way below the Chancellor's high budget estimate.

Britain's extraordinary and highly vulnerable situation has been papered over by a number of strategies that have helped to keep the pound quite strong relative to most currencies, apart from the occasional lapse against the dollar.

Privatisation is the most remarkable. But the cover that exceptional cash inflow provides has been partially blown by record borrowing from the banks and lending out at even higher interest rates on the money markets. So extra issues of gilt-edged stock of all descriptions are having to be made, never mind the borrowing requirement.

The treadmill must end with quite a sharp fall in sterling against the average, if not for long against the dollar. At present, high interest rates relative to those in other countries and the call on British Telecom shares are helping to keep the Treasury afloat. Further ahead, possibly in months and certainly in years, the problem looks daunting.

Cuts in expenditure are the aim of right-wing governments on either side of the Atlantic, but it is still not working out like that. Administration is expensive because it is slow to be completed and pay has kept on climbing. Needs are rising where the population is ageing, as in Britain. Services like gas, which are hugely profitable, are meanwhile being made still more profitable because of the government's need for funds, as well, perhaps, as a bright prospectus.

Short of a sudden outbreak of international unity and defence cutbacks, taxpayers are on a sticky wicket. Thanks for past relief and hopes of more to come they soon have to give way to a more sobering appraisal.

Since the Chancellor has been told in his attempts to claw back mortgage concessions, and the impossibility of paying big earnings-

related pensions to unfunded employees outside the civil service is only slowly being recognised, he is going to have to look to some of the old milk-cows for extra revenue.

Promises of reductions in income tax rates will have to be redeemed at the expense of one of the four or five highest revenue producers and with oil tax passing its peak and national insurance already being adjusted this year, the next milk-cows will have to be corporation tax and VAT.

Fortunately, the rise in consumer spending, dividends, and profits, means that a few extra billions will be readily available from these sources for another year or so.

The banks have been called upon to do their bit from limited internal resources, and they are now tax collectors on the much higher proportion of national income that is being derived by customers as interest on their deposits.

Although there are still suggestions that the threat of revival inflation in the US is as great as the opposite danger of recession, there are few signs of either development, and a lower oil price would be a boon both ways. Wall Street is holding up near its peak in this crisis, supported by strong bond prices. In other words, the trend of interest rates is gently lower.

Although the yields on long-term dollar bonds have fallen to the point where they are no longer appreciably above the 10 per cent return offered on the long-established gilts in London, only index-linked issues have shown any strength here lately. Any slipage of the pound is likely to be matched by a decline in government stocks throughout the list, and on recent inflation, trade and oil price trends, this is probable.

It is even possible that a short sharp fall in gilt prices would be welcome to the authorities, since funding would become easier if they, along with interest rates, were seen to be attractive compared with what they are likely to be later in the year. The spate of new share issues means that no big Treasury tap stocks can be floated off for the time being. But they will come.

While forecasting the next currency scene has usually been impossible or hazardous, the case for a broad spread is stronger with every cent or penny that the pound rises.

Associated British Foods



"An excellent performance achieved by our UK operating companies."

Garry Weston, Chairman

Salient features from the Report and Accounts 1985

- * Overall group profit increased by 20 per cent.
- * UK manufacturing trading profits up 30 per cent; retail profits up 18 per cent.
- * Overseas results affected by adverse currency realignments.
- * Profit attributable slightly lower due to increase in UK tax charge.
- * Shareholders' Funds increased from £786 million to £841 million.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

	1985 £ million	1984 £ million
Turnover—excluding Premier Group	2,930.6	2,764.7
Group profit—excluding Premier Group	108.8	90.6
Investment income	23.5	23.7
Profit of Premier Group	—	12.4
Profit before Tax	132.3	126.7
Tax and minority interests	53.4	42.2
Profit attributable to the Company	78.9	84.5
Extraordinary items	10.8	87.6*
Profit for the Financial Year	89.7	172.1
Earnings per share	19.8p	21.2p

*Last year Extraordinary items included the profit on the sale of Premier Group and a provision for deferred taxation.

Associated British Foods plc
Weston Centre, 68 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7LR.



DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND CHEMICAL AND
PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

NATIONAL OIL WELL COMPANY (E.N.T.P.)

CALL TO TENDER
OPEN TO ALL COMPETITORS
No. 9138-AY/MEC

The National Oil Well Company is launching an Open National and International Call to Tender for the provision of:

Lot No. 1 — TRACTOR 5x5 WITH WINCH FROM 450 to 500 cv

Lot No. 2 — TRACTOR 6x6 LOAD 30T, 300 cv

Those tenderers interested in this Call to Tender may obtain specifications on payment of 400 Algerian dinars from the following address:

Entreprise Nationale des Travaux aux Puits, 16 Route de Mefah, Oued-Smar, El Harrach, Alger, Algeria — Direction des Approvisionnements — as from the publication date of this notice.

Tenders drawn up in five copies should be sent in double-sealed and registered packet to the Secretariat of the Direction Approvisionnements at the above address.

The outer envelope must be anonymous, carrying no marking except the endorsement "Appel à la concurrence National et International No. 9138-AY/MEC."

The tenders must arrive at the latest within 45 days following the publication date of this notice.

The option period shall be 180 days as from the closing date of this invitation to Tender.

FRENCH KIER - 1984 RESULTS

CONTINUED PROGRESS ON MANY FRONTS

Highlights from the statement by the Chairman
Mr J.C.S. Mott, F.Eng., F.I.C.E., F.I.Struct.E.

- * Ninth successive year of advance in trading profits
- * Record turnover
- * Increased turnover from Construction in Europe
- * Substantial increase in profit contribution from Construction overseas
- * Increased cash resources
- * Acceptable result anticipated for 1985

YEARS RESULTS to 31st December

	1984 £m	1983 £m	% Increase
Group turnover	327.0	286.0	+14.3%
Group taxable profit	16.4	14.3	+14.7%
Shareholders' funds	76.8	68.8	+11.6%
Earnings per share	18.7p	17.3p	+8%
Dividend recommended per share	6.15p	5.60p	+10%

FK works worldwide

Copies of the Report & Accounts may be obtained from: The Secretary,
French Kier Holdings Public Limited Company, 50 Epping New Road,
Buckhurst Hill, Essex IG8 5ST.

Tate & Lyle overcomes bitter price war

By James Erlichman

A fierce price war has been waged in the UK sugar market since the takeover of Tate & Lyle by the British Sugar Corporation. The takeover, which was completed in March, has resulted in a bitter price war between the two companies.

Yet Tate & Lyle, long dismissed as a one-product company, managed to increase its profits by 17 per cent to £31.5 million in the half year to March 30.

Some of the growth came from interest on cash which has now been spent on Tate's ambitious £78 million acquisition

programme in North America. And an £114 million extraordinary loss had to be taken on the long anticipated disposal of Tate's sugar refining interests in Belize.

But the modest increase in trading profits was sustained by the success of managing director Mr Neil Shaw in cutting losses within the group and by the acquisition of a wholly owned company, Donlee, which sells plastic car accessories like sun visors to Ford and General Motors.

Donlee, which was bought for £26 million last year, is expected to earn profits of £10 million for the full year.

UK Sugar refining profits, long the mainstay of the company, fell from £42 million to £4.8 million after the British Sugar Corporation (now owned by S&W Berford) launched a price war to gain market share. British Sugar has a built-in raw material advantage, an asset which Tate & Lyle would find in the face of a margin squeezing fight.

"They discovered we were main event contenders when we matched every one of their cuts and now we have been able to get prices back up again," said Mr Shaw.

Despite tough market conditions in the UK, Mr Shaw de-

nied yesterday that the group was taking advantage of the fact that one of its executives, Mr Colin Moynihan MP, is also the Parliamentary Private Secretary to Health Minister Kenneth Clarke, whose department is raising the mandatory disclosure of sugar content on the new food labels proposed by the Government.

The collapse of US sugar earnings, which fell from \$5.4 million to zero, also failed to deter T & L's North American expansion. The switch by Coke and Pepsi to make based sweeteners has speeded closure of sugar refining plants throughout the United States.

But T&L has just spent \$33

million acquiring seven sugar refineries in the US — six of them from the Hunt Brothers bankrupted sugar beet subsidiary, Tate & Lyle believes it has now gained enough US market muscle to profit from the shake out of the industry is complete.

Group sales rose from £811 million to £851 million. The interim dividend has been increased from 6.5p to 7.5p a share and the group's shares recovered to their opening level of 445p in late trading yesterday.

● Tate's Neil Shaw: curbing losses



Drab day after dull set of trade figures

THE MARKETS

Stock markets spent most of Wednesday's trading session worrying about another uninspiring set of trade figures and Sheikh Yamani's call for a cut in heavy crude oil prices. Most of the selling occurred around midday, but prices managed to perk up again towards the close as buyers took advantage of the cheaper levels.

Naturally oils bore the brunt of the setback, showing losses into double figures in some cases. However, even here, quotations ended above the worst with Shell 11p lower at 895p.

Scores came in for some hefty profit-taking among the recent take-over favourites. Boots lost 4p to 194p ahead of today's results, while the ordinary shares of the company are looking for profits up from £185 million to between £180 million and £185 million.

Vickers were a weak spot as it became known that Saul Steinberg's Reliance Services

The announcement that the merger talks between C. E. Heath and Hogg Robinson had collapsed brought a mixed reaction. Heath rose 5p to 621p, but Hogg fell 11p to 266p. Life companies found support in early trading but closed below the best.

Banks slipped 5p and disappointing statements overshadowed properties. Overhauled were helped by a cheerful report on the industry, but investment interest was limited. Foods had one or two firm spots on speculative interest. Golds lacked a decisive trend, but modest rises were in the majority.

A broker's profits downgrading hurt Marks, which fell 4p to 85p, but bid speculation prompted Meyer International to gain 3p to 140p. Bid rumours hoisted United Scientific another 12p to 210p, after Tuesday's rise from 175p. British Aerospace, however, met small selling orders, and the ordinary relinquished 7p to 389p, while the new fell 4p to 219p.

Encouraged Thorne EMI to close 8p ahead at 477p.

Main changes: Vickers 304p dn 14p, C.E. Heath 621p up 5p, Boots 194p dn 4p, Hogg Robinson 266p dn 11p, Shell 895p dn 11p, Combined English 152p up 8p, Euro Ferries 139p dn 3p, Moss Bros 485p up 22p.

Equity turnover for May 28 was a number of bargains 15,538, value £348.7 million.

● Paris: French stock recovery after a poor start to finish higher on moderate volume. By the close the general market indicator was up 0.41 per cent. Advancing issues led declines 109 to 68. The CAC index of French stocks finished at a record 330.2.

● Frankfurt: Share prices gained in active trading on heavy buying from foreign investors. The Commerzbank index moved up 5.0 points to 1310.1 its eighth consecutive record high.

● Tokyo: Stock prices soared to record highs in huge turnover. Nikkei Dow Jones index: 1587.71 (1570.80).

● Hong Kong: Stocks closed sharply higher in moderate trading. Hang Seng index: 1587.71 (1570.80).

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COMPANY BRIEFING

Carless profits ahead of forecast

An eventful year for Carless, Capel & Leonard, the offshore oil group ended with profit ahead of the forecast made at the time of the bid for Premier, but also with a hefty write-down on the holding left after its failure.

Turnover for the year to March 31 was £33 million higher at £132 million after the stake in the Wyth Farm, Dorset, field, acquired from British Gas, made its initial 10p month contribution. The US operations also did well, based on secure contracts for



John Leonard

gas sales. Although these exploration and production interests accounted for the larger share of profit for the first time the specialist refinery and solvents sales and fuels enjoyed much better conditions for most of the year.

Pre-tax profit was £1 million above the minimum forecast at £2.5 million, leaving the previous year's £4.94 million and 1980 peak well behind. Oil and gas contributed around £2.5 million each at home and in the US, while solvents profit was up by half to £2.3 million. Total distribution rose to £1.44 million will be difficult to hold onto. Investment profit was also up by two-thirds to £1.9 million, but that ends such gains.

Interest outlays will mount again after the recent £40 million purchase from Lloyds. Approval of the Family Grove development was another landmark.

The write-down of the 113 per cent holding in Premier does not value the investment at the most depressed market price but still took £2.7 million. Some offshore exploration will be undertaken, though Premier would have widened the scope. Meanwhile, the Hornsea onshore field could be the second largest oil asset after the Wyth Farm stake.

The dividend at 2.75p net a share, covered by almost doubled earnings of 10p. An aggressive exploration programme is promised by the chairman, Mr John Leonard, again this year. Another strong rise in domestic production should be in prospect towards its end, by which time the oil price would be steadier.

Smith Bros slips

The international dealership Smith New Court, controlled by jobbers Smith Bros, and starting in 1984, is now breaking even after hefty first-half losses.

Results from Smith Bros, for the year to April 26 yesterday revealed that losses at Smith New Court depressed full year profit before tax to £4.5 million compared with £5.0 million last time. Losses at the international dealership have been contained to the £2.9 million level shown at the first half. This was due partly to start-up costs but more to severe cuts attributed to moving dealers away from the Stock Exchange floor trading to off-market telephone dealing. It is now making small profits.

Smith's chairman, Mr Tony Lewis, said the UK equity market showed satisfactory profit throughout the year with the trend continuing into the first month of this year. Smith has pushed up its market share in equity trading and has well placed to cope with the enormous market changes due with the Big Bang next year.

A sign of confidence in future trading comes with the 30 per cent lift in the total dividend to 6p.

Harrisons harvests a bumper profit

HIGHER crops and good prices led to a doubling of profits from plantations in Asia of Harrisons and Crossfields, helping the group to improve its margins substantially in the past year.

The pre-tax profit jumped by 47 per cent on a rise in turnover of 36 per cent for the plantations to chemicals and industrial materials group.

The plantation interests, which cover rubber, palm oil, tea, coffee and cocoa, are achieving similar record production in the opening months of the current year. Last year the plantations division raised earnings to £49 million compared with £22 million.

Turnover rose to £1.6 billion from £1.1 billion in 1983, producing a profit be-

fore interest and tax of £97.3 million, compared with £57.7 million. Interest charges rose to £14 million from £9 million, leaving the pre-tax profit figure at £83.3 million, compared with £55.6 million.

Earnings per share went up by 58 per cent to 38.8p from 24.5p, and the ordinary dividend at 20p a share, compared with 17p, is now nearly twice covered with shareholders' funds exceeding £500 million.

Led by British Chrome and Chemicals, profits from all the United Kingdom and European chemicals and industrial manufacturing operations were ahead of the previous year. Good performance in chemical distribution from Australia, the UK and two of the American units were not matched by the companies

along the north-east coast of the United States or in Canada.

Profits of the timber and building supplies interests for the first half of the year were well up to expectations but with reduced housing starts and lower renovation grants, the volume of business dropped "quite significantly" in the latter part of 1984.

In the general trading area, the recessionary conditions affecting the Eastern companies have not improved.

The UK and European chemical companies have started the current year well but against this bad weather in Britain has affected the timber and building supplies division. The North American chemicals operations are still meeting difficulties.

Boost for MEPC

Property group MEPC has boosted profits in the first half of the year from £21.78 million to £24.68 million after sending overall profits into reverse with a £512,000 decline to £9.97 million.

Earnings from investment property helped offset the problem by rising from £10.36 million to £12.3 million. There was a small drop in property trading income. The group's principal assets are regional shopping centres such as Nottingham and Newcastle. A revaluation of the group's portfolio which includes 40 per cent offices has thrown up an £11.5 million surplus.

The latest figures show a substantial rise in group borrowings, mainly long term, to £117.5 million. Shareholders collect a 5.3p dividend.

On the development front five new schemes have started in the UK and a second phase of the Colindale development in Dallas is planned for completion this summer. Investment properties generated £27.5 million against £24.68 million in the first six months of last year. Shareholders collect a same again dividend of 2.5p.

Meanwhile, Capital & Counties has suffered profits setback in the last 12 months.

Dramatic turnaround

Thomas Borthwick & Sons, the meat trading and foods group, achieved a dramatic turnaround in profits in the half year to March 31.

Of £882,000, the comparable stage last year was translated into pre-tax profits of £3.7 million.

Group turnover at the half-way stage grew from £288 million to £271 million. The board said that in line with its policy in recent years the company will wait the outcome of the full year's operations before deciding on an appropriate dividend payment, which, if circumstances are favourable, should at least be equivalent to the 0.5p per share paid last year.

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Our Client, a major international manufacturer, is a leading company in the interactive mini computer systems market. The company has developed an excellent reputation for providing complete solutions for business users from a single source. The UK operation has expanded by 100% during the last two years and their continuing growth prompts their requirement for a Senior Systems Advisor, to join a highly professional team based in West London.

Following thorough product training, the successful candidate will assume responsibility for the full range of pre and post sales support of systems users from £50K to £1.5M. With total involvement from initial demonstration through to customer acceptance, also of importance will be the guidance of Junior Systems Advisors within these projects.

The successful candidate will have a detailed knowledge of Accounting applications and previous programming experience preferably in Cobol. Equally desirable is previous experience of interactive systems in a support environment. Whilst technical competence is essential, also important is a keen commercial awareness, linked with strong communication skills. The company is totally committed to development of its personnel resources, thus opportunities for career advancement in both management and technical areas are outstanding within this respected organisation.

For further information or to apply, please telephone Andrew Goodman or Nicola Moses on 01 486 8591 (24 Hour Answerphone) or write quoting reference number NM0632.

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Telephone: 01-486 8591

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ASSISTANT INSPECTOR

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... primarily to inspect, from an archaeological point of view, and report on monuments, sites and buildings of all periods until the 19th century. Negotiations with owners, outside authorities and organisations about monuments scheduled under the Ancient Monuments Act are frequently involved. Research into the history and development of monuments and buildings in the case of the HBMC and preparation of guide books may be required.

You should normally have a relevant degree with 1st or upper 2nd class honours (where divided) or a relevant degree awarded for post-graduate study or research. If you do not possess these qualifications you will only be considered if you have other qualifications or experience of special value. You must be able to show evidence of an enthusiasm for archaeology and have some knowledge of the general archaeological and historic background of sites, monuments and buildings of every age from the Neolithic period to the Industrial Revolution. Specialist knowledge of industrial archaeology and monuments an advantage.

Salary (under review): £23,000-£24,000. Starting salary may be above the minimum. Promotion prospects.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 21 June 1985) write to Civil Service Commission, Alconway Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG24 1JH, or telephone Basingstoke (0294) 468881 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref G/8555.

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Application forms and further details from the Secretary, Animal and Grassland Research Institute, Wellesbourne, Warwick, CV35 9EF. To be returned by 18 June 1985 quoting 14/77.

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ASSISTANT COMPUTER OFFICER

Applications are invited from graduates or people expecting to graduate this year to assist in provision of computer services in the University. Applicants should be interested in development and support of applications software under UNIX. Knowledge of graphics would also be welcome.

The appointment will be for three years in the first instance and will be on a scale from £6,500 to £10,250 (under review).

Applications form and further particulars from the Personnel Officer, University of Bath, Bath BA2 7AY, quoting ref no: 85/5. Closing date: 17.6.85.

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required for large indoor market in Marylebone. Must like dealing with people. Short hand typing required and bookkeeping to trial balance. Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am-6 pm. Salary negotiable. Telephone: 01-722 9888 for details.

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CAREERS-IN-COMPUTING



IS THIS ANY DIET FOR A HUNGRY YOUNG GRADUATE?

Unfortunately, it's the sort of uninspiring career diet that some companies serve up. However, if you're looking for a career in computing you should be looking for a company with strength. A company that's diversified. A company that's dedicated to systems development. A company that's genuinely committed to training, development and personal enhancement. A company like the Prudential.

The Prudential Corporation is one of the largest and most successful financial groups in the UK with our DP Headquarters based in Central London.

The diversification of investment in recent years has taken us into such areas as the support of high technology, including the rapidly expanding fields of biotechnology, microelectronics, oil exploration and a wide range of property development projects including London's first Technopark.

The volume and variety of systems supported by the DP Division are extensive. They vary between large and small, straightforward and complex. The range of applications they support are predominantly concerned with their business and are financially orientated.

Developments and enhancements are continually taking place to meet the growing demands created by the volume of business as well as new areas of computerisation within the group.

Prudential Starting as a Programmer, you'll be given a comprehensive training including an intensive three month induction period

working closely with experienced staff. Soon you'll be working with project teams on a wide range of developments – always to our impeccably high standards. Opportunities will arise to move into Systems Analysis and specialised areas. And all the time you'll be involved with and learning from the many facets of the Company's activities.

Technically, the Pru is right at the forefront of technology. (our diverse information requirements dictate that we have to be), our impressive purpose built installation houses our IBM 3083 and 3084 mainframes.

The message is clear. Our commitment to your training and development in a fascinating environment offers an ideal framework for you to build a richly rewarding career. You can literally go as far as your talents and ambitions dictate.

Right now we have a number of places available for numerous Honours Graduates: who are articulate, personable and clearly able to work well in a team situation.

So when you contact us, we trust your interest will extend beyond the excellent starting salary, mortgage subsidy, non-contributory pension/life assurance scheme, flexitime, subsidised restaurant and tremendous sports/social facilities.

Please send CV by Friday 14th June to Mrs. Claire Rose, Personnel Officer, Management Services Division, Prudential Group, 142 Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH.

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Very rarely in life do people get the chance to seize a genuine grass roots challenge. This is one of those rare occasions... an opportunity to install, maintain and supervise one of the most exciting, multi-user data networks in Britain today. Let's tell you all about it.

British Telecom – the most powerful computer user in the country – are now turning their attention and considerable resources to the business information market. And they've come up with a unique solution... New Information Services.

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Since you will be reporting to and often deputising for the Operations Systems Manager, we are looking for a proven VAX VMS track record, some proven solid operating experience plus the natural talent to lead and motivate communications systems networks and data storage techniques. We are looking for someone who can confidently make any task from loading and unloading tapes to creating back-up storage facilities and ensuring that no data is ever lost or unavailable for access.

With ambitious plans to climb fast and far, VAX 780's, this self-motivated Deputy Manager seems certain to rise to such a great challenge! Can you rise to such a great challenge? Can you plan about your answer before you get in touch? Ring Martin Barrett today on 01-234 6543. Alternatively, write to him at British Telecom, Room 110, 35 Watling Street, London EC4M 9B. Please quote reference (G22).

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Bring your IBM systems experience to Castrol Research Laboratories, Berkshire

Castrol Research Laboratories at Pangbourne, Berkshire, employ around 170 people, mainly comprising chemists, engineers and business professionals.

We now need a computer scientist to join a close-knit, highly professional team providing a systems and data processing service covering all aspects of the laboratories work.

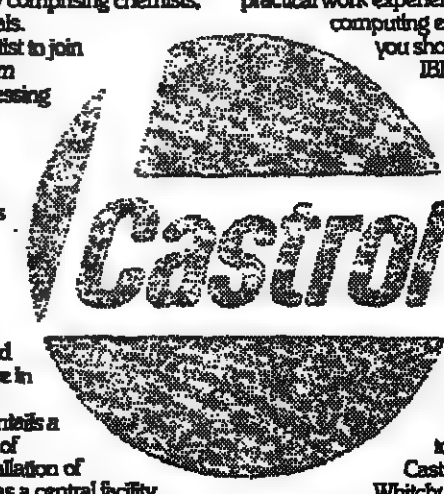
A major responsibility of the job will be to actively pursue the introduction of modern systems methods and to design and supervise production of working solutions to meet the identified needs.

Virtually all of the work involves interactive computing using either personal microcomputers or a Head Office based IBM mainframe. We are in the early stages of a major systems re-equipment programme which entails a substantial increase in the number of personal microcomputers and installation of an IBM System/36 microcomputer as a central facility and network controller. The successful candidate will be closely involved in this re-equipment programme.

An appropriate degree backed up by some 3-5 years of practical work experience in a business or scientific computing environment is required. In addition, you should have a broad based experience of IBM systems encompassing operation and programming of System/34 or System/36 microcomputers, and use of mainframe batch and interactive environments. Sound practical knowledge of use of personal microcomputers for business or scientific purposes is also necessary.

The salary is attractive and is supported by a non-contributory pension plan and free life assurance.

So, if you meet our requirements, please write with full CV, or telephone for an application form, to Miss H. Bowler, Castrol Limited, Castrol Research Laboratories, Whitechurch Hill, Pangbourne, Reading, Berkshire RG8 7QR. Tel: 07357 4321.



PROFESSIONAL CAREERS IN MOTOR RETAILING & SERVICES

Radcliffe Garages is a privately owned progressive group operating in Bolton, Bury, Swinton and Manchester with a turnover in excess of £20M. Incorporated in the group are major car retail franchises, leading petrol/service stations and associated motoring services. Intensive investment and extensive expansion programmes provide the basis for a continuous management policy of maintaining the highest retailing standards. As a result of expansion, career opportunities are offered to high calibre applicants who wish to join a professional team.

MANAGER (Petrol Retailing)
An enthusiastic manager is required for the new petrol/service station facility in Bury. The successful applicant will be expected to achieve and maintain the highest retail standards. Responsibilities include staff recruitment, training and supervision, establishing excellent customer liaison and actively expanding the business base of the facility. A good education background is essential up to the standard of a good degree or equivalent business experience.

BUSINESS TRAINERS (Sales)
Vacancies exist for young persons of graduate status to establish a career in motor retailing/services. Ideally, applicants should be under 25 years of age, of smart appearance and possess a clean driving licence. The ability to demonstrate an enthusiastic attitude within a sales orientated environment is essential. The group operates a full in house training programme which provides an excellent basis for career development to executive level.

Salaries are negotiable. Conditions of employment are those expected of a large progressive group and include a company car and pension fund membership. Excellent opportunities exist for advancement within the group.

Applications must be in writing enclosing full C.V. and should be addressed to: The Managing Director, Radcliffe Garages Group, 81 Radcliffe Road, Bolton BL2 1NU.

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- Providing high-level support to teams developing packages in Pascal & Assembler for real-time VAX/VMS based systems using VAX/VMS development tools.
- Maintaining and advancing Software Development Philosophy, Methodology & Coding Practices.
- Ensuring that software teams are appropriately staffed and trained and that each team member's potential is fully developed.
- Monitoring the quality of Software Specification, Design, Coding and Documentation.
- Maintaining a high level of personal expertise and a detailed awareness of international advances in Software Technology with particular reference to advanced concepts in intelligent and Expert Systems.

You should have a good qualification in Computer Science or Electronic Engineering, broad experience in the computer or electronics environment and particular experience in the specification and design of structured software for real-time applications. Familiarity with 'Yourdon' methodology and design of structured software for real-time applications would be a plus.

There is an excellent salary & benefits package which includes pension life & health insurance and, in appropriate circumstances, a generous relocation allowance. To discuss this opportunity please call Mike Gerrard Tel: 453 on 0223 742344 or send your cv to: ELECTRONIC COMPUTER SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT RESEARCH LTD, The Millings, High Street, Bury, Cambridgeshire CB6 0JL.

BBC-1

6.00am Ceefax Am. 6.50 Breakfast Time. 9.20 Pages from Ceefax. 10.20 Play School. 10.40 International Cricket: England v Australia for the Texaco Trophy contest. Old Trafford. 1.50pm News after Noon. 1.55 Regional News. 1.55pm Cricket: England v Australia. 3.53 Regional News (except London and Scotland). 3.55 Mop and Smiff. 4.10 Ivor the Engine. 4.15 Jigsaw. 4.30 Bananaman. 4.35 Dogtanian and the Three Musketeers. 4.55 John Craven's Newsround. 5.55 Blue Peter. Ceefax sub-titles. 5.55 Dr. Kildare.

6.00 NEWS: Weather News.

6.35 REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES.

7.00 EASTENDERS. Ceefax sub-titles.

7.30 TOMORROW'S WORLD. More reports on what science and technology have in store for us.

7.55 TOP OF THE POPS. A live edition, introduced by John Peel and Janice Long.

8.25 THE LITTLE AND LARGE SHOW. Starting a re-run of Syd and Eddie's show, featuring the Texaco Trophy contest. Old Trafford. 1.50pm News after Noon. 1.55 Regional News. 1.55pm Cricket: England v Australia. 3.53 Regional News (except London and Scotland). 3.55 Mop and Smiff. 4.10 Ivor the Engine. 4.15 Jigsaw. 4.30 Bananaman. 4.35 Dogtanian and the Three Musketeers. 4.55 John Craven's Newsround. 5.55 Blue Peter. Ceefax sub-titles. 5.55 Dr. Kildare.

9.00 NEWS: Weather News.

9.25 MATT HOUSTON: The Ghost of Carter Gault. He being the newspaperman who hasn't actually passed over as yet, but who looks to be heading that way after being blown up in his car. Lee Horsley as the Texan investigator taking up his story — about a bent union boss which someone is trying to stop at all costs.

10.15 QUESTION TIME. Donald MacCormick takes the show to Plymouth, where questions from a South-west audience go to MPs Margaret Beckett, Alex Carlile, George Walden, and Professor Laurence Martin.

11.15 THE LEARNING MACHINE. Intelligent Pets. Should we be wary of relinquishing too much power to machines? Should we learn more about the learning process itself before planning to automate the experience? Tim O'Leary concludes his series with a look at the development of artificial intelligence programmes for education, and the implications of a computer-dominated lifestyle.

11.40 Weather. Close.

BBC-2

6.20-7.20 am Open University. 9.00 Pages from Ceefax. 10.20 Play School. 10.40 International Cricket: England v Australia for the Texaco Trophy contest. Old Trafford. 1.50pm News after Noon. 1.55 Regional News. 1.55pm Cricket: England v Australia. 3.53 Regional News (except London and Scotland). 3.55 Mop and Smiff. 4.10 Ivor the Engine. 4.15 Jigsaw. 4.30 Bananaman. 4.35 Dogtanian and the Three Musketeers. 4.55 John Craven's Newsround. 5.55 Blue Peter. Ceefax sub-titles. 5.55 Dr. Kildare.

7.30 NEWS with sub-titles: weather.

7.35 FLOWER OF THE MONTH. Clematis. With Geoffrey Smith.

7.45 RECOVERY. 4. Brian Redhead learns how new management, new designs, new production methods, and an aggressive new marketing strategy turned round 225 cooker manufacturers New World of Warrington.

8.10 LOST IN MUSIC. On the little island of St Kitts, Clement "Monarch" O'Garra is recognised as a promising young musician and a leading exponent of soca, the Caribbean soul and calypso which is the pop music of the East Caribbean. He wants to break into the international music scene — but that means leaving his roots and heading for New York. In this latest film in the series, scripted by St Kitts-born Caryl Phillips and directed by Robin Denslow, Monarch, his family, and the island people act out his dilemma, his decision, and the result.

9.00 LEAVING. Keith Barron, Susan Hampshire as the divorced pair who can't quite make the break in Carla Lane's long drawn out comedy. Ceefax sub-titles.

9.30 ALEC CLIFFTON-TAYLOR'S ENGLISH TOWNS. Warwick. Another repeated tour, taking in some fine timber framed buildings as well as the superb castle and famous Beauchamp Chapel in St Mary's Church, both made of the local sandstone. Our guide points out that there used to be a particularly fine view of the church — until twentieth century planning struck the county council's concrete office block in the way. Ceefax sub-titles.

10.10 INTERNATIONAL CRICKET: England v Australia. Peter West introduces highlights of today's one-day international at Old Trafford.

11.00 NEWSNIGHT. 11.45 Weatherview. 11.55 Open University. 12.50 Close.

ITV London

6.15 am Good Morning Britain with Roland Rat. 9.25 News. 9.30 Sesame Street. 10.25 The Possession Files. 11.20 Cartoon Time. 11.30 About Britain. 12.00 Fox Tales. 12.10pm Mooncat & Co. 12.30 The Sullivan. 1.00 News. 1.20 Thames News. 1.30 Scarecrow and Mrs King. 2.25 Home Cookery Club. 2.30 Play It Again. 3.00 Take the High Road. 3.25 News Headlines. 3.30 Sesame and Daughters. 4.00 Fox Tales. 4.15 Crystal Tipps and Alastair. 4.20 Wonders in Letterland. 4.40 First Post. 5.00 Dangermouse. 5.15 Thames Sport.

5.45 NEWS: Weather News.

6.00 THAMES NEWS.

6.25 HELP! with Viv Taylor Gee.

6.35 CROSSROADS.

7.00 EMMERDALE FARM.

7.30 WHOSE BABY? Bernice Winters hosts another round of the famous-parents quiz, challenging Nanette Newman, Kenneth Williams and Big Daddy to identify the progeny of more celebrities.

8.00 ON THE BUSES. Reg Varney, Doris Hare lead big-screen spin-off from the cheerfully vulgar sitcom, with the bus company blokes going off their trolley at the prospect of women behind the wheel.

9.30 EYE. The Defector. Arkady Shevchenko, the highest ranking Soviet diplomat to defect to the West since the war, tells Alastair Burnet about the workings of the Kremlin and the cynical attitudes of the Russian leaders to disarmament.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN: weather.

10.30 SHELLEY. Hywel Bennett as the philosopher (failed) in a re-run of the memorable episode which finds him sharing a prison cell with Max Wall.

11.00 PARENTS AND TEENAGERS: Not Talking. Uncommunicative kids may create family problems — but are parents just as guilty of keeping their thoughts to themselves?

11.30 MAN DETAINED. Bernard Archard leads this latest odd thriller in the Edgar Wallace Presents strand, about a burglar who finds himself on a far from petty charge.

12.35 NIGHT THOUGHTS with the Bishop of Durham. Closedown.

Channel 4

2.30 pm Film: Summer Stock. 1950 musical with Judy Garland, Gene Kelly. 4.30 Television Scrabble.

5.00 THE WINDS OF WAR. Starting a repeat of the TV hit, based on Herman Wouk's bestseller about a Yank family fighting WW2 on every front, memorable mainly for Robert Mitchum's somnambulist playing of the novel hero father, and Ali McGraw's definitively awful portrayal of a young Jewish girl.

7.00 CHANNEL FOUR NEWS. 7.50 Comment by Najma Hafeez, lecturer in equal opportunities. Weather.

8.00 MIRROR IMAGE — SWANS WAY. The three-strong Birmingham band talk to David Wigg about their individual views on writing and their long and difficult road to a recording contract, while delivering the goods at London's Astoria Theatre.

9.00 THE BRIGHT SIDE. On the Move. Continuing Willis Hall's comedy, with Paul Copley as prisoner Paul, having settling-in problems in his new dormitory. Paul Wilton, the wife on the outside, facing a much more traumatic transfer.

9.30 FILM ON FOUR: SUMMER LIGHTNING. Turgenev's story of adolescent passion and jealousy. First Love is the basis for this 1984 drama — though writer-director Paul Joyce transposes it to an Irish setting, just before the Famine. Paul Scott leads an impressive cast as the ageing man recalling the summer many years before which blighted his life, with Edward Rawlin-Hicks as his younger self, a 14-year-old falling violently and tragically in love with an older girl, Leslie Melville. With Tom Bell, Dearbhla Molloy as young Robert's parents, plus David Warner, Maureen Teal, Jonathan Ryan.

11.10 THE UNPREDICTABLE WHO DARES WINS... More scurrilous sketches culled from last autumn's late-night revue.

11.40 ARE YOU TAKING THE TABLETS? Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery. Another examination of the contemporary relevance of the Ten Commandments, with sex therapist and marriage guidance counsellor Frank Littlejohn offering this week's expert view. 12.10 Close.

Radio 1

6.00 am Adrian John. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates. 12.00 Gary Davies. 2.30 pm Steve Wright. 5.00 Bruno Brookes. 7.30 Janice Long. 10.00-12.00 Into the Music.

Radio 2

4.00 am Colin Jones. 6.00 Ray Moore. 5.55 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 1.55 pm David Jacobs. 2.55 Gloria Hunniford. 3.30 Music All the Way. 4.55 David Hamilton. 5.00 The Good Human Guide. 5.10 The Good Human Guide. 5.20 Star Sound Extra. 11.00 Bernard Fallick. 11.55 Bill Bennett. 12.00 Male Voice Choir Competition. 12.05 Ed Welch, at the piano.

Radio 3

VEP: 6.35 Open University: Weather. 7.00 News: Morning Concert. 7.05 News: This Week's Composer: James Macmillan. 7.10 News: This Week's Composer: James Macmillan. 7.15 News: This Week's Composer: James Macmillan. 7.20 News: This Week's Composer: James Macmillan. 7.25 News: This Week's Composer: James Macmillan. 7.30 News: This Week's Composer: James Macmillan. 7.35 News: This Week's Composer: James Macmillan. 7.40 News: This Week's Composer: James Macmillan. 7.45 News: This Week's Composer: James Macmillan. 7.50 News: This Week's Composer: James Macmillan. 7.55 News: This Week's Composer: James Macmillan. 8.00 News: This Week's Composer: James Macmillan. 8.05 News: This Week's Composer: James Macmillan. 8.10 News: This Week's Composer: James Macmillan. 8.15 News: This Week's Composer: James Macmillan. 8.20 News: This Week's Composer: James Macmillan. 8.25 News: This Week's Composer: James Macmillan. 8.30 News: This Week's Composer: James Macmillan. 8.35 News: This Week's Composer: 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